

**TOWN OF MOUNT HOPE
JOINT FIRE DISTRICT PUBLIC HEARING MEETING
AND WORKSHOP MEETING
NOVEMBER 27, 2012
www.townofmounthope.org**

The **JOINT FIRE DISTRICT PUBLIC HEARING AND WORKSHOP MEETING** of the Town Board of the Town of Mount Hope was held at the Otisville Fire House on 60 State Street, Otisville, NY., **November 27, 2012** at 7:00pm with the following present: Supervisor William Novak Jr., Councilman Mike Bell, Councilman Gary Ketcham, Councilwoman Janet Sutherland, Councilman Ed Fairweather and Town Clerk Kathleen Myers.

PUBLIC PRESENT: Steering Committee members: Skip Coppola, Mike Coppola, Robert Zawasky, Ed Myslinski, Dave Parlman; Attorney Frank Simeone, Attorney Zack Kelson. See attached for general public sign in sheet.

Supervisor Novak called the monthly meeting to order at 7:00pm following the Pledge of Allegiance.

At this time, **Supervisor Novak** stated that about a year ago the fire company came to the town board about forming a fire district. The consensus of the board at that time, said we would sit down with the Village and do this on a joint basis. In the end, we would go to the public and let the public make a decision on it. A few weeks ago we scheduled a public hearing and the Town Board decided - we were going to go through with their part of the public hearing.

Supervisor Novak stated: at this point I will ask Mr. Simeone to read the notice of public hearing. At this time, Mr. Simeone thanks the Supervisor and reads the notice into the record (notice attached to these minutes).

Supervisor Novak then stated that before we start we are going to set a few ground rules. This is a public hearing. This is not going to be a debate. We don't want to get into name calling or finger pointing or anything. We want to hear what your comments are; what your feelings are about the district. Being that there is a good number here, we would ask that you try to limit your comments to 3 minutes, if possible. And, to give everybody a chance to speak before you speak again. Okay we'll open it up for public comment then.

My name is **Adam**. Do you have any numbers that you could..... Supervisor Novak asked Adam for his last name. He stated **Clouse**. As to what it would cost. Mr. Simeone answered that in the back of the room on the table there there's a stack of budgets. It's a proposed by the Steering Committee. That would be if we move forward with the Village's participation to form the joint fire district. The first column is the present operations of the fire department. The next 3 columns are the proposed budgets for the next 3 years. The actual budget would be set by a board of fire commissioners. Thank you.

Hi - **Maryann McDonough**. I would like to know how you're even proceeding since I think the attorney read it in the notice of the public hearing that said it was being held by the Village and the Town. I do not see the Village represented at the table there. So I don't know how you can proceed with a meeting that's been advertised as both entities being represented here when it's my understanding that the Village has determined that they do not want to not only participate in this meeting but not participate in the joint venture. Supervisor Novak stated that is their prerogative. We feel, the Town Board feels that the residents in the district should have an opportunity to speak. So that's the reason that we determined that we were gonna go forward with it. The Village can make their own choices. I can't speak for them.

Tom Gilmore. I'm with the Town of Mount Hope. I'd like to speak in favor of having a fire district. Primarily because I as a voter and a tax payer in the Town of Mount Hope under the present circumstances have no say or control over the fire budget whatsoever. It's a good case of maybe we ought to have a tea party because it's taxation without representation. I would like to have a fire district so that I can vote for and have the district governors and have them control the fire district. I think it's necessary for the tax payers and voters in the town. Thank you.

Diane Loeven: A comment to follow Mr. Gilmore's: I was on the board for many years. Tom appears to be under the impression that probably a lot of other town residents are that the Town is given no input into the fire budget. But Bill, correct me if I'm wrong, the contract that the Town has with the Village, don't you and/or your representatives sit down with the Village every year in developing that fire budget?

**TOWN OF MOUNT HOPE
JOINT FIRE DISTRICT PUBLIC HEARING MEETING
AND WORKSHOP MEETING
NOVEMBER 27, 2012
www.townofmounthope.org**

Supervisor Novak stated that they have a meeting but we don't sit down and develop it. They give us a budget and then ask us if we want to make changes to it. Mike, you're the representative. Do you want to speak on that? Councilman Bell stated that's it exactly. We're given a budget. Ms. Loeven added: I remember sitting across the table from you with a proposed budget; just like this is a proposed budget, and going line by line through it and asking what your feelings were and moving numbers around as the Town saw fit. We would negotiate that budget. It was not that it was given to you and say this was it. It was changed after that meeting more times than not that I was involved with it. I think that's really important for people to understand that I cannot guarantee that every year it that happened but it is not just that the Village says ok this is the Town's budget and now the Town's gotta pay it. Thank you.

Mr. Simeone asked: Could I respond to that? Supervisor stated ok. Mr. Simeone stated that the development of the budget is one thing and certainly over the years as I understand it there has been some action with the Town and the Village to develop a budget. It's the administration of the budget which is entirely in Village hands at present. And that is why I believe the fire company - the fire department has sought to create a joint fire district; so that the administration of the budget would be in hands that are responsive to the full group served by the fire department.

Greg Stiles: I think that Adam Clouse asked about the budget. Now I am looking at this - doesn't this budget pre-suppose the Village's participation? Mr. Simeone stated, yes it does. Mr. Stiles stated, ok and this is a meeting with just the Town acting unilaterally after the Village has already decided that they don't want to proceed with a district? Correct? So these numbers are moot? Supervisor Novak stated he would address that. Anticipating that question would come up, I calculated what it would be if the Town outside the Village alone, without the Village, take that same budget and it would increase the tax base by approx. 40 cents per thousand. So a \$100,000.00 house - your taxes would go up about \$40. Mr. Stiles asked if he could go on. Supervisor Novak stated we are not getting into a debate. Mr. Stiles stated, ok but this budget pre-supposes the use of this facility? It's based on the use of the existing fire apparatus and trucks? If the Town proceeds unilaterally, there's no guarantee the Village is going to go along with it - right? Supervisor Novak stated, I can't answer that for the Village. Mr. Stiles added that this budget is based on the use of the Otisville-owned fire trucks and fire house. Supervisor Novak stated that on the same hand, there's no guarantee that the budget couldn't be less. Mr. Stiles stated that 40 cents per thousand is based on the use of the Village fire trucks and fire house. Correct or not? Supervisor Novak stated that's based on this budget. Mr. Stiles asked correct or not Bill? Supervisor Novak stated that's based on this dollar amount.

Chad Volpe: I just have a question I guess for the fire company. Could you tell us some advantages as to going district as residents? Like what would be the advantages for us?

Mr. Simeone answered that he would speak on behalf of the fire company. For years this fire company has looked solely to the Village to administer the budget as I answered Diane's question earlier. For years this fire company has been required to expend its own efforts without long term planning. Without assistance in terms of long term planning. Just as an example, if a truck needs to be purchased, if this had become - if this were a fire district - the firefighters current officers would have a group of fire commissioners who they could sit with - they sit at monthly meetings - and say, well we need a pumper in this fire company. We need to purchase it on the following plan. The pumper needs the following equipment in it. We'd like to form a committee so we can bid that fire truck. At present, the fire company - fire department - has no group like that dedicated to fire protection. They vote at the village board. The Village Board as you know has many responsibilities that don't include just fire protection. And, it's fair to say that in the past, the monies that the Village has received from the Town for certain purposes at least when I said earlier when the budget has developed there was a certain amount of money that would go for this purpose or that purpose. In the actual administration it has not. It's gone to the Village and the Village admittedly facing other needs whether they were water needs or DPW whatever the other needs the Village had - came first. The fire department came last.

**TOWN OF MOUNT HOPE
JOINT FIRE DISTRICT PUBLIC HEARING MEETING
AND WORKSHOP MEETING
NOVEMBER 27, 2012
www.townofmounthope.org**

Chad Volpe (cont.): Mr. Volpe asked: so as a taxpayer I am paying money through the Town which the Town in return is giving to the Village and it's not being..? Mr. Simeone asked him if he lives in the Mount Hope fire protection district. Mr. Volpe stated, in the Town of Mount Hope yes. Mr. Simeone stated, your money is collected it goes to the Town and the Town contracts with the Village for the Village fire department to protect your home. Mr. Volpe asked, so you're saying all the money I am paying for fire protection isn't going to the fire company. Mr. Simeone stated, I think that's fair to say. Mr. Volpe stated thank you.

Maureen Coppola: That's not true. The village just went through an audit. I would think if that were the case if they were spending money that was not allotted to that was supposed to go to fire protection, I think that would have been in the audit was just conducted. I think that would have been mentioned if they were allocating the money going to someplace that it didn't belong. I really don't think that's the case. Supervisor Novak stated he is not going to comment on the audit. I think the audit speaks for itself. It's online if anybody wants to see it.

Mrs. Maurizio: Mrs. Maurizio is my name. I was told to identify myself. I have several comments/questions that I've written down. If I may read them...The Otisville fire company is owned by the Village. Monies are controlled by the Village board. The fire budget is separate according to the 2006 contract with the town signed just before my husband, the former Mayor left office. The Town of, everyone pays equally, the Town of Mount Hope is 5x larger the size of the village – by proportion everyone pays the same. The Town, at the time of the 2006 signing of the contract, the Town was very late to pay the bill and the comptroller never advised the village to pay to create a separate account. The fire chief always met with the village and the town board representative to discuss the needs, the needs of the fire company and a budget and they always left satisfied to the best of anyone's knowledge. Members of the fire company I guess can come from the village and the town or anywhere else. Let's see, the town pays for fire protection....fire protection. Just as each of us pay insurance for our car or on our car or our house. We pay for protection. We do not have equity in those insurance companies. The newspaper article mentioned no equity by Mr. Novak. There would be no equity. Nor do you have – you pay for fire protection to Howells fire department. You have no equity in Howells fire department either. Only cities and villages and volunteer fire companies and/or I believe individuals can create a fire district or can own a fire district. Towns cannot own a fire district. Um, if the Town of Mount Hope contracts for services with any new fire district outside of the village payment will be due by taxation. And, you would have to build a new building, buy equipment and service the people for the protection for their own protection from fire. You have a proposed budget here. I didn't know that was available. I'd like to know the benefit of changing from the village to a district other than what the attorney said is the village can not focus on fire company. I believe the village has very well focused on the fire company. And if anybody wants to tell the truth, they can attest to that. Is there any new, any new information that was not provided 6 or 7 years ago? As I understand it or I'm told, there was no information given that was not already given 6 or 7 years ago. The story is around that grants available or more grants available to a district. Now I'm told, you know, I need to be, you know, informed that no special treatment is given for fire districts. No special treatments as far as grants go to fire districts. And what equipment – I'd like to know, what equipment is needed that the Village has not always provided, cannot or has not provided to this day. What do you need that you do not have? I understand you put up paperwork to buy Silverlake fire mini they call it - for medical use. I understand that has recently been granted. You can correct me if I'm wrong. Again, I will say the focus, uh the focus of the Village board. You have separate gatherings with the town representatives, Mr. Novak and which you, I believe, appoint that representative to go to the village as a representative of the Town and discuss the fire budget. Mrs. Loeven, Miss Loeven said that she recalls being personally present when these discussions were made. Also, commissioners, I don't know, but I'm told that they are first chosen by the village and town boards and then after they are chosen - who will want this unpaid position? You have 2 people on your steering committee only – I believe you know, you should have more than 2 people on your steering committee. I would guess. To handle such a project.

**TOWN OF MOUNT HOPE
JOINT FIRE DISTRICT PUBLIC HEARING MEETING
AND WORKSHOP MEETING
NOVEMBER 27, 2012
www.townofmounthope.org**

Mrs. Maurizioo (cont.): So who will want this unpaid position of a commissioner and who would want this position maybe, firemen, firewomen, families, people associated with the fire company and who will run in a future election for these commissioners – probably those very same people. And, how many will go out to vote for commissioners uh because people, there's not a large majority of people, that go to vote in general elections except as is a presidential. So therefore you may have a biased group of commissioners there, maybe; and in the newspaper a statement was made: abandonment of this is (inaudible), abandonment of this project is a terrible loss. To whom is it a terrible loss? Who is losing from the Village abandoning this district - merger? That's my question. Who would lack..? Supervisor Novak stated, alright you're... Mrs. Maurizioo stated I am almost finished. How would lack of district result in Otisville volunteers solely depending on Mount Hope for financial and administrative support? The village, if this doesn't happen, the village fire company would remain as it is. And you will never have equity in any fire company Mr. Novak. Never. And, in conclusion, I would say that the statement that abandonment of this project is a terrible loss and the words that follow that is in essence a threat by the fire company. That concludes my questions and statements.

Supervisor Novak thanked Mrs. Maurizioo for her comments. He stated: I am going to address a couple of them real quick. Equity. What I said about equity is, I didn't say the town would have no equity. I said the residents in the fire district have no equity. I have, I belong to Howells fire district. While I don't own a piece of that fire truck, I sure as hell get a say on everything that's spent on that thing. 80% of the people right now in this fire district don't have a say in what goes on. In Howells, like you have a say. You said about a late budget. Mrs. Maurizioo stated: you do have a say. Supervisor Novak stated: excuse me, I'm speaking. You had your chance and I did not interrupt you. I don't have a say in that. 80% of the people don't have a say. You said about one year the budgets were - the check was paid late. The reason why is in the contract every year it says that we will receive – by September, an itemized statement of all the expenditures of the fire company. I've been here, this is my 21st year, and I've never received an itemized statement of the expenditures, the village expenditures for the fire company. So I will address that. You said where will we find volunteers. We already have 7 people that have volunteered that are interested in being commissioners ok that have stepped forward and saying they would be interested. And, excuse me you had your chance. The opportunity is out there for anybody, anybody in this room has an opportunity that lives in that fire district to be a commissioner. Including you if you wanted to step up and run for it. Okay – next question.

Frank Ketcham: Came here tonight thinking we were talking about a fire district. Now I understand talking to a number of people we're talking about a fire department and a fire district. Do we have an idea how much an additional whatever you call it, fire district is gonna cost us? Does the Town Board have an idea? What they're gonna cost us above and beyond this budget that they've given us? Supervisor Novak stated: I think the steering committee came up with a proposed budget. Am I correct on that Frank? Mr. Simeone stated: assuming the village was going forward with the town which less than a month ago was the plan, the steering committee prepared a budget and that's the budget that's in front of you. If, in fact, the village is serious and intend to abandon the plan completely, there will be a new fire department formed. It will be formed in the Town of Mount Hope. The Town of Mount Hope will contract, as they are legally allowed to, with the new fire company. If the village and this fire department here wants to continue to serve the village, they'll be free to. Nobody's gonna stop them from it. Nobody's gonna prevent the Village of Otisville from doing what it feels it must to have this fire protection. I would like to respond to something, does that answer your question? Mr. Ketcham stated: no. Would the Town of Mount Hope residents be billed by the village department? Mr. Simeone stated: no, the Town of Mount Hope right now collects taxes in a fire protection district for fire taxing funds that are now paid over to the village. Instead they would go over to some other fire department. Some other fire department until a district was formed at a town level. At this point it's called a fire protection district which means the town board serves as the commissioners of that district. There was a statement before that I believe it was Mrs. Maurizioo that said that she did not think there'd not been any indication that the reserve funds of the town, of the village rather had not been appropriately used for fire protection. I just read a small portion of this audit.

**TOWN OF MOUNT HOPE
JOINT FIRE DISTRICT PUBLIC HEARING MEETING
AND WORKSHOP MEETING
NOVEMBER 27, 2012
www.townofmounthope.org**

Mr. Simeone (cont.): As the Supervisor said earlier, the audit speaks for itself. But I think anyone who wants to read this audit particularly page 5 which begins board responsibilities; that are talking about the Village board responsibilities there will see that at least according to the Office of the State Comptroller there has been a shortfall in the boards fulfillment of it's responsibility specifically with respect to reserve funds in the fire protection portion of the budget. And those reserve funds are largely 80% made up of monies paid under that contract – currently by the Town to the Village. And frankly, and I don't know if Mrs. Maurizio knows this, but there will be people who will speak up after the fire department – I don't believe it's true Mrs. Maurizio with all due respect for you to say that the Village fire department meaning the men and women who make up this department have always left satisfied. You'll hear if you stick around tonight, you'll hear some people tell you how they've not left satisfied. And how they do feel in comparison to other districts in this area that operate with fire districts unpaid commissioners who can be found in those other communities and can certainly be found here how those districts have progressed. They move forward, they have a fire house that is much safer and much better equipped than the one that your volunteers in this Village operate in. So stick around – you'll hear it. Supervisor asked if there's anybody else that would like to speak.

Brian Wona: Village resident. I would just like to address a couple things. Yes the audit came out today. It was publicized in the newspaper. Certain things were pointed out in that audit. Mr. Simeone points to page 5 of the audit – uh he doesn't go by the part where we respond to those resolutions that were happened before my time. I have done everything in my power as a Village Mayor to correct the inaccuracies that have been bestowed on me as a Mayor. I run a clean program as far as I can see. The comptroller's job is to find discrepancies with the way villages, town and cities are run. I embrace those discrepancies so that I can become a better operator and the Village can become a better operator and more efficient on the discrepancies that are found. Secondly, I feel it was misleading as Nov. 1st the board passed to rescind their offer to go ahead with this and on the 13th you had been contacted, Mr. Simeone, by our lawyer, and still went ahead and put us on there. Now, to me that's a deceitful tactic. Also, it was discussed at the joint meeting that we had to set this public hearing that there was a law out there, 209 of village law section that said that this could be pushed to a referendum on the electors. Now I was told all along that this is illegal, this is not how you do it. This is a straw pole this is that, this is this. Now this law exists. And with knowing that, how can I go forward when I can't get a straight answer from the attorneys around me. Honestly. And then, go ahead and produce and put us involved in this joint public hearing when we made the announcement to you through my lawyer that we weren't gonna proceed. Now, I try to run an up and up ship here. And, I find it disheartening that I'm ignored or the wishes of the board were ignored at this point. I mean, I got nothing against you guys wanting to form a town district. Go ahead call it a town district. I wish you the best. I am not standing in anybodys way but I don't like the tactics that are going on right now. You know and you guys can say the audit speaks for itself, well, read our comments about the audit instead of what the comptroller, how we found the problems and how we addressed all of the problems. And at this point, we have the same program that Bill has for his accounting system and Greenville has for their accounting system. Yes duplicate check numbers are produced. They have been caught by our auditor and they have been satisfied. So, I haven't taken any fire department money which is in its own account and spent it on any village venture. So, I just wanna make that straight and on the record here. And it wasn't, there's no money missing in that audit. As it's been stated. I've been told I've been using money. And they went back pretty far. They went back to 2003. Over a truck purchased. I've even answered the questions and I wasn't even involved in 2003. The minutes weren't that accurate in 2003. That's all, you know, I wish you guys the best in what you decide as a Town. Move ahead with your district. But don't make the village the fall guys for this whole situation. We didn't want to waste the company's money going ahead with the lawyer fees and stuff like that. That's why we rescinded. We weren't prepared to move forward with this. And that's the bottom line.

**TOWN OF MOUNT HOPE
JOINT FIRE DISTRICT PUBLIC HEARING MEETING
AND WORKSHOP MEETING
NOVEMBER 27, 2012
www.townofmounthope.org**

Brian Wona (cont.): Can you fault the people that I've been told by lawyers that we're elected to make those decisions for the public. You know and sometimes, I've (inaudible) since 2007 – I wanted it to go out for a vote. I wanted the village residents to vote on it. And I want the Town residents to vote on it. And I was told it's a straw pole. That's not how you do things. You're elected to make the decisions. And here's the election – here's the decision was made by the elected officials not to go forward with it. And, you know, we're basically being trashed in my eyes. My opinion. We're being trashed for making the decision. I apologize that we didn't make a favorable decision for you guys. I really do. I'm very sorry. Bill, about operations statements – anytime you need an operations statement all you gotta do is call me. I will make those available to you. I will get you anything you need. I tried to satisfy Mr. Ed Fairweather's request at times. Of getting him the monthly reports the fire company puts out. I have been successful at times. I have not been successful at times. I'm human. You know. Those are my comments. Thank you very much.

Supervisor Novak: I'm just gonna make one comment on that. At that meeting we had, we had a joint meeting of the 2 boards where we scheduled that public hearing that you brought up at that meeting that there was a section of the village law that allowed for it to go to referendum. And I believe that the outcome of that meeting was that bring us a copy of that law and if it is at the public hearing we will schedule a referendum. Am I right or wrong on that? Mr. Simeone answered. That is correct. I'm sorry that the Mayor left. But I did state I've stated to this group I've stated to the fire company that a straw pole is not provided for in the statute. A straw pole would be a vote before the village or the town decided to go forward. The procedure in the statute is for a vote after not a vote for in other words the village board and the town board would have to pass resolutions to form a joint fire district which could then be subject to a vote. When we suggested to the village that if they wanted to go forward on that basis we would have paperwork prepared tonight so they could go forward on that basis and in fact after the letter that the mayor referred to uh I sent out a letter to every village board member with a notice of the public hearing inviting them to attend and telling them that if they wanted to let the people decide all they had to do was come tonight pass the resolution which was discussed less than a month ago; pass the resolution and put it on a special ballot special election for the voters sometime before January 11th so that we could meet tax status date. So, I'm sorry Mr. Wona is not here to hear it but I do feel I had to respond to what he says and it is true that there can be a vote in fact if the village board wanted to vote tonight to form this district and then call a special election they could still have a special election in time for this district to be formed. And yes it is true that's why the town and the fire department decided to go forward with this public hearing. Because it's the best thing to do they believe and it's what they wanted to do and it's what the village wanted to do less than 30 days ago. And they said they wanted the voters to decide –fine. The voters would have to decide after the fact rather than before the fact. Supervisor Novak asked if anybody else had anything.

Skippy Coppola: Part of the steering committee. Frank I was under the impression from the get go I said why don't we let the Village people vote and the town people vote. And it was all no no no no. You don't have to do it and everything else. Then you said that Howard Dallow said took out the statute or whatever you call it. I don't know what you call it. That it was legal to have a vote. Now you're stating ok that it was ok that the public hearing is now in. After the village could have their election. Not election a vote if they want to have a fire contract. I was not under that opinion. Mr. Simeone stated: if you look at the statute it's 9908 from the village law that Mr. Dallow found. Mr. Coppola stated: I know Frank but you said from the beginning that we can't have a vote. That some of the members of the steering committee said that we can't have no right for a vote. Mr. Simeone stated: because it was considered that it was going to be a straw pole before the boards acted. And we said and that's true. You look at the statue that Mr. Dallow found. It talks about a mandatory referendum after the village boards' action. Which is what Bill said the town might want to do itself – hold their own election after the town decides. After the village decides. But not a straw pole such to say do you want to or do you not before the village acts or before the town acts.

**TOWN OF MOUNT HOPE
JOINT FIRE DISTRICT PUBLIC HEARING MEETING
AND WORKSHOP MEETING
NOVEMBER 27, 2012
www.townofmounthope.org**

Mr. Simeone (cont.): That is not in the statute. There is no provision for it. And that's what I said before and I stand by that. And honestly, Mr. Coppola, that's not the point. The point is should this department have its' own level of government. This fire department that serves 2 municipalities. It serves a portion of the town and it serves the village. Should there be a separate board of fire commissioners that this department can work with or as it is now, should you have a village board funded 80% by tax monies than the department has to interface with. And again, you can walk into that fire house and you can look in there, you can talk about all the things this department has tried to do over the years and you'll hear, you'll hear if you stick around why it is that this department wants a board of fire commissioners. Why they want a unified tax rate. Why it is that in 2006 there was myself and another lawyer fighting on behalf of the village and the town as to how those monies were gonna be split up. Those monies could have gone to scott air packs instead they went to me and some lawyer from Syracuse. Mr. Coppola stated: If they would have had a vote and the village would have said no then that would have been the end of your fees. Mr. Simeone stated: no the village board and the town board could still go forward and ask the people to vote afterwards – and that's all I've said. Vote after – that what the statute provides. Mr. Coppola stated: That's what the statute provides but I'm saying if the vote was 1st you'd have known if the people of the Village of Otisville didn't want to proceed with it and you'd have saved all these fees. Am I wrong? Mr. Simeone stated: You are wrong because if the vote went 1st – it would bind no one. There's no procedure in the statute for it. You could take the vote and anyone could challenge it and say what does this mean? It doesn't mean anything. The statute doesn't provide for it. The people wouldn't be voting on a plan. The plan has to be enacted by the town and the village and then the vote. Otherwise the village, they're not even voting on anything. It's not a solid plan. Mr. Coppola stated: The village board would have known what the public wanted. Mr. Simeone stated: Yeah but the public want based on a plan that's not that's not, that's not, that has no content. That's the purpose of saying the village has to act 1st. Mr. Coppola stated: It all could have been avoided from the get go. Supervisor Novak stated: Not to interrupt, I will tell you, you know from the beginning I always said the way to do it was to go do a referendum. And I called the Association of Towns and they said the same thing. You cannot spend municipal money for a straw pole. It has to be a binding resolution for you to (inaudible) expend municipal funds. That's was why I kind of abandoned it. Mr. Coppola stated: I stand corrected then. Supervisor Novak stated: Cause I was for it in the beginning. I said from the beginning I thought like that and the state told me you cannot spend it on a straw pole. It had to be a binding resolution. Anybody else that hasn't had a chance to speak?

Phil Freidle: I just have a question. Town resident. Why does the board want a fire district? Why did the town residents want it? What's the benefit for us? Supervisor Novak asked: You're asking? Mr. Freidle stated: I am asking the elected officials. Supervisor Novak stated: I will tell you personally that I 'm gonna speak here now. Since you asked me. I said from the beginning, I don't live in the district. I want to do what the people in the district want. And that's why we felt that it was important to have a public hearing. If all those people that are opposed to it that I've heard, there's thousands of people out here that are opposed to this – there's no way they want it. Mr. Freidle stated: Probably having to say in my being able to vote on the commissioners and all that but I just wanted to know have we had a lot of people step up and um and we wanna go forth with this? Supervisor Novak stated: We had the fire company come a year ago. Mr. Freidle added: I know the fire company but what about... (inaudible). Supervisor Novak stated: Yes sir, I heard yeah we... Mr. Gilmore added: I spoke in the beginning, and I am a town resident not a village resident. And I don't belong to the fire company and I think it's essential that the town residents have a say in electing a board of governors for the fire district that we pay our taxes. Mr. Freidle stated: I agree with that. (inaudible) To clear that up. I am a fireman. I am a fireman here. (inaudible) Mr. Gilmore stated: That's why the town needs a fire district. The village residents already have a say because they get to vote (inaudible) Supervisor Novak stated: Tom. We're trying to let everybody talk first. I let you go because you were answering his question. Anybody else that hasn't had a chance to speak? That would like to say something.

**TOWN OF MOUNT HOPE
JOINT FIRE DISTRICT PUBLIC HEARING MEETING
AND WORKSHOP MEETING
NOVEMBER 27, 2012
www.townofmounthope.org**

Julie Musial: I just have a question. How much do we currently pay per hundred thousand as a town resident towards what we pay the village? Supervisor Novak stated: I think the rate was gonna be around 2.13 um 2.14 rounded off. Mrs. Musial asked: So actually, if you go by this budget it would be 30 cents more per hundred thousand? Right? Supervisor Novak stated: Well, closer to 40 cents more per hundred thousand. Mrs. Musial: So, 20 cents more. Now that's going with the fact that if it was in conjunction with the Village? Supervisor Novak added: That's taking this dollar amount Julie. It's not taken in conjunction with the...that's what it would cost if they used that dollar amount. Now, that doesn't mean that they're gonna form a separate fire company. It doesn't. It means we could go out to bid. That's always an option. You could go out to bid for fire protection. You know, you could let, if there's a separate fire company formed here, they could bid on it. Howells could bid on it. Greenville could bid on it. Otisville fire company could if there's still a fire company there could bid on it. So that would just be the money that would be the money that would be available based on what would be collected from taxes this year. Mrs. Musial stated: Right. So the benefit to us is having more to say for 40 cents more per hundred thousand. So that we'd actually have a say as to what goes on within that fire district? Supervisor Novak stated: Absolutely. Mr. Simeone added: I'd like to just say one other thing. That was just pointed out to me. That budget if you look at it under rent provides \$30,000.00 per year. That was money that was going to be paid by the new fire district to the village. That was a negotiated rate. When we were at this point 7 years ago when Mrs. Maurizio's husband was Mayor, it was going to be less. It was going to be I think \$1,200.00 per month. About \$14,000.00 a year. \$14,400.00 actually. Then in negotiations with the Village, it was discussed, well, you know. What's the building worth? It was an agreed figure. \$30,000.00 per year. Now obviously, if we're not going to have a joint fire district and the new fire company in Mount Hope is not going to use this firehouse that \$30,000.00 is gonna come out of that budget. So at least in that respect, you can't really take that budget and talk about what the town would what the town's cost would be. Mrs. Musial stated: ok I just wanted to break it down dollar wise for the how much more it's gonna cost. Supervisor Novak stated: I don't know if it helps but the share of the budget for next year would have been \$341,000.00 for the town and \$79,000.00 for the village. Mrs. Maurizio added: The town is bigger. Supervisor Novak added: Just giving figures Mrs. Maurizio. Okay – who hasn't spoken? Stand up and identify yourself please.

Lou Dodd: My name is Lou Dodd. I've been in the fire company for close to 30 years. I'm the president now and a past Chief. I've lived here all my life. The first thing, I'd like to apologize.. It's not yours, it's not the guys that get it in the paper - where they wrote in the paper that we're rattling the sabers. To me that comes off as a threat. That's not a threat. We have never threatened as a fire company or we tried to form a fire district formed. I'd like for the people to put the name in the paper. I'd like to apologize for that. That is threatening. And that is not our words. That's to sell that paper. We've been trying to form a fire district. I was talking to the fella from the paper. He's going back all the way back to 2005/2006. I remember when I first got in the company in '81. We were trying to do it then when Norman Mann was Chief of the fire department tried it then. It's good government. It's a good way to govern yourself. I'm for it. I'm gonna speak now as a tax payer. I am for a fire district. I wanna be able to have a say. How does it work in 300 or 851 districts in the state and it can't possibly work here? We need to have a say. I wanna have a say. I'm not saying..I dealt with the Village board as a Chief. And it was okay. There's no reason to lam-baste them. It was okay. But there's never been planning. Never been planning for the long term thing like a lot of other districts do. We need to start doing that. As far as what they're trying to explain to us is that both boards – the village board needs to pass a resolution. The town needs to pass a resolution for us as taxpayers to have a vote. For us to have a say. To me, what I was taught in Minisink – that's democracy. We need to have a say. So the village, now this is me as a taxpayer – the village has said to me as a taxpayer – that yes we want to go forward with a vote. We were gonna go have a public hearing and go forward. Both boards would pass resolutions and we would get to walk in the polling booth and vote yes or no. You want a fire district you don't want a fire district. And that way we'd all have a say.

**TOWN OF MOUNT HOPE
JOINT FIRE DISTRICT PUBLIC HEARING MEETING
AND WORKSHOP MEETING
NOVEMBER 27, 2012
www.townofmounthope.org**

Lou Dodd (cont.): It's, it's, in the districts around us when they wanna buy something or do something, they explain it to the taxpayers and everyone gets to vote. My tax money now goes to 5 people on the village board. Elected by the village residents and they make that decision. As paying taxes in the Town of Mount Hope, I wanna be able to have a say in what goes on and vote. The board of fire commissioners elected, will lead it. It's governed. It's audited. It's watched. And, it's spent properly. There's capital reserve funds that they have for us. My parents taught me – you save. That's how you get things. I want a fire district. I'm a town tax payer. And I want a fire district and I want to have a say in what goes on. That's as pure as it is. And why the democratic process of going, of all of us going to a polling booth and walk in and say yes or no and pushing for one of the buttons, what's the fear of that? If I was a politician sitting on a board and I said ok, village residents – town residents, I'm gonna allow you to vote. And how you vote is how it goes. You can't come back to me later on if you've all voted no or you've all voted yes. If you all vote yes if you vote yes, we move forward. If you vote no – it doesn't. But if I was a politician I would want – that's a clear conscience. I've done what I was elected to do to serve the people. And let the village residents have a vote. They're not getting a vote. I want a district. I've lived in the Town of Mount Hope for 50 years. I never thought I'd stand in a room and say that but that's (inaudible). We need to have a district. I want a say in how it's going. And if we re-elect the commissioners, if it's not going on the right track, they wanna buy a fire truck, fine. Tell me why you wanna buy a fire truck and what do you need it for. Then we vote on it. Then we get to go back into that room and vote in a democratic process.

Keith Hedberg: May I continue? Village resident 2nd Lt. in the fire department. It's under the, am I correct in saying that if we went forward or if the town went forward with a fire district they can't incur anymore debt without a vote? Mr. Simeone stated: That's correct. A fire district cannot incur debt without the vote of the people. Mr. Hedberg stated: The people have to decide whether or not we need to buy new apparatus - whether it's warranted or not. So the people in that fire district are in control of increasing or decreasing their debt? Mr. Simeone stated correct.

Skip Coppola: How does that work Frank, when first budgets are set up by commissioners or by (inaudible)? Mr. Simeone stated: Well, the budgets that we proposed because it was proposed at the time when there is no debt on the existing fire department equipment wouldn't have required the district to incur debt. If the new commissioners said that they wanted to buy a truck on using debt or if they wanted to add to the fire house or move the fire house by issuing debt that would require a vote. So that would be up to the new commissioners and that's not in the budget because at the present time the equipment, the fire equipment, everything in this fire house has no debt. There was debt up until this year, I think. In fact, if you look at the current budget, there's a, for the current year there's a line item for bond principal and interest. That was a payment on one of the trucks I think. 142. It was paid off this year. Mr. Coppola stated: So you'd actually be going on a budget that would be set up by the commissioners the 1st year of the fire district – correct? Mr. Simeone stated correct and every year thereafter. Mr. Coppola stated that could be higher than the one estimate we have here now? Mr. Simeone added absolutely, this is only an estimate by the steering committee. This is not – this does not bind anyone. They could adopt less. In effect, with respect to bringing the village into this process, at one point, through me, the steering committee said to the village, if you're worried that the taxes are going to be too high of the 9 people we propose as fire commissioners, pick the 9 stingiest people – the people who you know to be the tight fist, the most tight fist with money. We'll let them be the commissioners. We want a district. It's not money the company is looking for. It's that direct control that was talked about before. And that was demonstrated by saying to the village you name the people. Take the tightest people amongst those proposed. If you've got somebody tighter – propose him or her. Supervisor Novak stated: Just a clarification for me on that. If it goes over that proposed budget and they're incurred debt like if they're gonna buy new trucks and things like that – that has to go to the voters. Mr. Simeone stated not if it goes over only if they're gonna issue debt to go over.

Antoinette Coppola: Frank this is directed at you. The 1st board of commissioners, does that budget go out for vote to the public? Mr. Simeone stated: no.

**TOWN OF MOUNT HOPE
JOINT FIRE DISTRICT PUBLIC HEARING MEETING
AND WORKSHOP MEETING
NOVEMBER 27, 2012
www.townofmounthope.org**

Antoinette Coppola (cont.): Mr. Simeone added: there's a budget hearing not a vote. Every fire district in the state has a budget hearing on the 3rd Tuesday of October. Mrs. Coppola stated thank you.

Supervisor Novak added: I see some more hands in the back.

Ed Jacobs: Chairman of the board of Slate Hill Fire District. I've been doing it for 15 years. On the department for 35. Our members, our boards probably got one guy that's been on the board for 50 years. (inaudible) I'm one of the younger people there – year-wise. If you look at – you talk about money, you pay your taxes to the town, the town cuts a check sometime in January and pays the fire district. You put that money – you go back and draw interest on it. Our budgets are a little bit more than predicted but we also save \$200,000.00 a year for new trucks. We have no debt in our district. And our newest truck is probably 2 years old. We pay for both our trucks with cash. But we saved that money. We are in the process now of buying a piece of ground. Which is no more taxes to the community. It was what we saved in that budget. We worked real hard on it. Every year we buy turnout jackets, scott packs, hose. Chief comes to us and says I need this, this and this. Here's your budget and comes back and we go. It's a money issue and what we know exactly how much we get every year so we don't over spend it. Excuse me we spend it wisely. When we close our books December 31st, we have so much time to give it to an auditor. He goes through it, writes a report. CPA goes to Albany every year. So we are pretty well – our hands are tied on what we can do and we get – we have been real close on our thing but we do a double standard. Two people sign every check. There is no problems. We're very tight-knit on what we spend money-wise. So that the money you can almost guarantee is safe. Mr. Simeone has been to a few of our meetings. He discussed a few different things with us. If you're worried about money issues, that's gonna stop. The 5 commissioners have their hands tied on the financial end of it. One year something goes wrong somebody's gonna get their hand slapped real hard. The state doesn't allow it anymore. So it's just some of the differences. The fire company and the village and the towns gotta get together and get this going right away. You can work and be great or you can fight all day long. It's not gonna help. That's all I have.

Supervisor Novak asked for anyone else to have a chance.

Fred Baker: Village resident, past trustee for the village of Otisville. Just for the public knowledge, maybe a lot of people aren't aware of it. I wanna address this to you Bill because you probably being on the trust – Supervisory position and councilman uh – know what your obligations are as trustees or councilmen or whatever. Hasn't the Village put themselves in the position where if you have a vote or referendum or wanna put something up for referendum, do you have to have a majority vote by your council? Can you correct me on that? Do you have to have a majority vote? To put a referendum up? Supervisor Novak asked: for a bond issue? Mr. Baker stated to whatever. For the passing of a law... Supervisor Novak stated yes. Mr. Baker stated so basically the village acts the same way. You know there's a code of ethics, that if you represent a 2nd party on that board, you have to dismiss yourself from voting. You cannot vote for or against. It's the code of ethics. Three of the trustees that are on the village board are members of the fire company. That leaves 5. (inaudible) conflict of interest. Two that aren't. You never had a majority vote. So it can never go to vote. So why does it seem to be brought up. The village has no say. They really don't. The village cannot put it to vote with the trustees they have on board. Am I correct? Supervisor Novak stated he will defer to the attorney on whether it's a conflict of interest. Attorney Kelson stated: Well the issue of conflict of interest is not something that's really in front of us right now. But the issue that we tried to deal with when we had our meeting over a month ago with the Village board in which we sat down and one of the concerns which the Mayor had and the village trustees had is is they wanted the right – they wanted the people to have a right to have a say. And we discussed the fact that they also wanted to know what people had to say about this district - both the village and the town. After a lot of discussion and I know the Supervisor talked to the Mayor and the trustees and they all agreed unanimously to conduct this public hearing that we are here for tonight. We also had discussions after the fact and I talked to the Mayor about it that if there was the ability even if there wasn't a mandatory referendum, the town board said 'listen, we'll help you get the signatures so that you can have a vote on it.

**TOWN OF MOUNT HOPE
JOINT FIRE DISTRICT PUBLIC HEARING MEETING
AND WORKSHOP MEETING
NOVEMBER 27, 2012
www.townofmounthope.org**

Attorney Kelson (cont.): So that issue really didn't exist. I think the issue that everybody in the room has to think about, whether you are for or against it, is do you want to have a right to vote on it. If the Village board does not take action, and does not join in what we're doing tonight, then there may be a chance for village residents to vote. It's just that the village won't have any control over it. We've had some discussions about that. It's a little up in the air yet. But I think that – I can't imagine that there's a single person sitting in this room whether they are for or against it – who doesn't think they wanna have a right to tell everybody what they think. And the best way to do that is the same way you voted for president, senator, supervisor or mayor which is a secret ballot. Supervisor Novak stated: last call for anybody that hasn't had a chance.

Chad Volpe: I know I heard a lot of for it against it and obviously I heard that the village is not for and maybe the town board is for it. Basically, my question is even Mr. Ketcham brought it up about what our cost is – because this budget was done the other way, how quickly would we be able to get a budget now if the town is moving forward with it alone? How quickly would you get an accurate budget as far as (inaudible) tax payers? Supervisor Novak stated: well I can tell you let me just address that. We are already locked in. We've already approved our budget for next year and cannot exceed \$341,000.00. Mr. Volpe (inaudible) building and a fire house and everything. Supervisor Novak stated well that's what we have cast in our budget for fire protection next year in the Mount Hope fire protection district. Attorney Kelson stated I have one question I'd like to pose to the fire company counsel. You develop the budget. Can you tell the public how that budget came about, why you and the fire company worked on that? And talking about what the village requested and why you all went to your effort to do it. Can you tell the public about that a little bit. Mr. Simeone stated that's really 2 questions. The 1st thing with respect to the timing of a new budget for if the town were to go ahead alone. They have a contract that expires with the village on May 31 of next year. So sometime between now and that date the town would have to contract with a new fire entity, if a new fire entity was created. The new fire entity it's impossible to say exactly what the cost would be but as Bill said, as your Supervisor said, it couldn't exceed \$341,000.00. It would probably be substantially under that because the group that's considering leaving this fire department to join to form a fire department in Mount Hope realizes that they're gonna need reserve funds. They're not gonna be able to spend money for, a lot of money anyway, to get a piece of property. They would have to lease property. They're talking about taking equipment on loan from other departments. Buying surplus equipment from other departments. Zack asked me, Zack Kelson the town attorney, asked me to address how it is that we formed that budget. Well, there's a lot of history here. It's kind of behind the scenes of what Mayor Wona was talking about before. The steering committee was initially formed as far as I know, with my involvement in 2003. We had several sub-committees. One was boundaries – to come up with this map. And to talk about where the properties would be that were covered by the new district. One was operations. How would the actual operations of the fire department be transferred. Things like dispatch and alarms. How would they be transferred from a fire department answering only to a village board to a fire department that would now be answering to a board of fire commissioners? But there was also a budget sub-committee because obviously people such as yourself come to a public hearing. You wanna know what the dollars are gonna be. So what did they do? The budget sub-committee and some of the people on that committee who are in this room they could probably tell you that the nuts and bolts better than I can but I did assist. We looked at what the current costs were. From looking at the current costs, we tried to project forward what the costs would be. There are some costs that a fire district would have – there's no secret about this – that, that you wouldn't have if you stayed in the current operation. You'd need a secretary, you'd need a treasurer, you'd need a separate audit as the gentleman from Slate Hill said. Now if you look at the current operation budget, some of those monies which are paid by the village to the fire department are in effect in the budget. In other words, the fire company or the fire department, through its line items contributes to the village for some of the administrative things that the village does for the fire department. As well it should. But there are some special items such as a secretary, treasurer, legal and audit. You'll see it in that budget.

**TOWN OF MOUNT HOPE
JOINT FIRE DISTRICT PUBLIC HEARING MEETING
AND WORKSHOP MEETING
NOVEMBER 27, 2012
www.townofmounthope.org**

Frank Simeone (cont.): But how do they formulate that budget? They try to look at what the costs have been and from that they went forward to try to decide what the costs would be and if a new fire company is formed in the Town of Mount Hope it will do the same thing. It'll say ok we know we need equipment. What equipment do we have? What equipment do we have to buy? We need a place to keep our equipment. What can we do to find a place to keep our equipment? Can we make arrangements for, with somebody that has property who will give us a place to hang our hat until we can develop some reserve funds and whether with the town or without the town develop a new fire house? Or can we enter into negotiations with the village and get the use of this fire house? This fire house is perfectly centrally located if you look at the maps that are here. But it's not bad either. And we would have to look for a location and other new fire companies got a couple locations that are also centrally located. But, it's an imperfect process. The only good thing is the new fire company will have a few months to put that together and to negotiate with the town well within, I expect – the amount of money the town is willing to spend so that they could get a fire company up and running. It's not the preferred course. The preferred course was to join with the village to do this. The village at it's meeting of Nov. 1st, decided to rescind what they done previously and basically walk away from this proposal. There's nothing the fire company could do about it. We made a press release. We worked with the town to say to the village 'please come back into this process'. We will schedule a vote or you can schedule a vote so that we can both let the people decide. As you say is what you choose to do. The village has chosen not to do that. The fire company is left here with no alternative but to turn to the town. Mr. Kelson stated: if I could just address one thing that – you really didn't quite answer the question I was getting at which is notwithstanding everything you said about the village, they let us down, they did do one really good thing. They asked the fire company – this was before we had our last meeting which they agreed to go to a public hearing – they asked the fire company on relatively short notice - are you prepared? They asked for a whole bunch of things, I mean a letter with 10 or 12 things. Mr. Simeone stated: I'm sorry Zack, you're right. (inaudible) I have a copy of the letter here. I didn't want to bring this out. This has to do with the interplay between the village and the fire department and the steering committee. And really it uh it puts everything in a negative cast. However, the Mayor did send a letter to Ed Mysliński who is seated here, the chairperson of the steering committee, it was dated Sept. 21st. I've got a copy of the letter. Anyone can look at it. It sets forth all the things the village wanted the steering committee to do. So that the steering committee could go – so that the village and town could go forward with this plan. I also have a copy of a letter that after 3 meetings that the steering committee held. My office sent a letter to the Mayor Oct. 12th so the (inaudible from a resident) and I sent it to everyone. Within about 21 days, 3 weeks, the steering committee met, we answered those questions. I wish the Mayor was here. He called me 3 days later and said 'you didn't answer all our questions'. I said 'well you know some of the questions we answered the questions much better than you even had asked. And other of the questions, we couldn't give you everything you wanted'. For example, just to make the point – they asked us for example to tell us who had been present at all the meetings of the steering committee. So we went back to 2003. Well at the time the secretary of the steering committee was also the village clerk. And those minutes aren't available to us. They were, they're village records. So I said to the Mayor 'you know you're asking some things that we actually can't do'. But we did send, and here's the letter. We gave them an inventory of all the department equipment, we gave them the minutes of fire company meetings showing that this fire company over time has been almost unanimously in support of a fire district going way back. We gave them the proposed budget. Which of course had to be renegotiated with the village to come up with that \$30,000.00 that you were talking about before. Within 3 weeks – we responded, I think adequately, and in some cases more than adequately to every question that the mayor gave us in this letter. Now there's some people on this steering committee that will tell you that this letter from the Mayor was just a bluff. They were just trying to give us something that we couldn't do so they could say oh look you didn't respond. Well, we worked hard and we did respond and now the village has still said no we won't go forward. And yes you've got people on this fire company who are very disappointed by that and you've got people on this fire department that are talking about walking away because of it.

**TOWN OF MOUNT HOPE
JOINT FIRE DISTRICT PUBLIC HEARING MEETING
AND WORKSHOP MEETING
NOVEMBER 27, 2012
www.townofmounthope.org**

Mr. Simeone (cont.): It's been 10 years. And a lot of work and a lot of money out of the fire department coffers. Most of it to me. I'm not ashamed of it. But it's a shame that the fire department had to go through this. The steering committee had to spend this money and put this work into it just to have the village at a meeting 3 days after they said they would hold a public hearing turn around and say no, now we're outta here. I haven't heard a good explanation yet. And I'm sorry the Mayor isn't here to try to give it to us. And that's why we went forward tonight. Because we still think it's a good idea to form a joint fire district and we would still like the people in this community to support it for your fire department. The people who will be there to put out your fires and respond to you when you're sick.

MaryAnn McDonough: I'm very confused by all of this. When I came here (inaudible) that you're still looking to the village to step up to the plate here. But if the village has already said no and that's the end of it where do you stand and what are your alternatives? Some of us as village residents and other as town residents, what can we look forward to - to the future if the village is saying no we don't still want a fire district. There seems to be a dance going on that's saying well if the village wanted to vote tonight. Then, the village is not here. The Mayor was here; there might be an individual village trustee or 2 here. And there might be some village residents here but what I completely don't understand is-you're still proceeding like somehow you think magically the village is going to say yes. If the village says no, what exactly are you gonna do? I heard someone say tonight - I believe it was Mrs. Maurizio - say the towns cannot own their own fire district. That they cannot become one on their own. Supervisor Novak stated they can't own their fire company. They can't own a fire company. (inaudible) Mrs. McDonough asked if you can become a district on your own...Supervisor Novak stated we don't want to own a district. Mrs. McDonough stated no, no you...Supervisor Novak stated we don't want to own a district. Mr. Simeone stated we want to take the politics out of it. Right now the town has a fire protection district. Mrs. McDonough stated and they pay the village to...Mr. Simeone stated to cover that fire protection district. But the town board acts as their own commissioners if you will, to administer fire protection in that fire protection district. What Mrs. Maurizio said before, and I'm sorry I didn't respond at the time, was incorrect. The town can take that fire protection district and turn it into a fire district. Yes they can. Mrs. Maurizio stated protection is the key word. Mr. Simeone stated no, they can turn it into a fire district. They can - a fire protection district where they, the town board members, are the - can act as commissioners, they convert it to a fire district where then they would be elected commissioners in that same area. Mrs. McDonough asked then why don't they do that and you don't need the village at all. Mr. Simeone stated, well, that's probably what's gonna happen. You said as a village resident why doesn't it happen? It probably will happen. (Applause) But remember the village is gonna lose a large part of funding. Mrs. McDonough stated: and lose a lot of part of what we protect. Mr. Simeone stated well, that's the village's choice.

Adam Clouse stated: I think - is people are asking questions and making comments and for the most part the Supervisor and the town board it's like you guys are ½ asleep up there. It's like you guys really aren't taking a stand, aren't providing any information, aren't saying ok this is how it's gonna work. This is going to be how it's gonna work. Nothing. Supervisor Novak stated: It's a public hearing. Mr. Clouse stated (inaudible) what's going on - just the lawyer. You look over to the lawyer. Someone asks a question, you look over to the lawyer. Supervisor Novak stated: in a public hearing, we take public comment. Mr. Clouse added it sounds like you're half asleep up there. Supervisor Novak added, well I've got pretty good notes for someone who's ½ asleep. Mr. Clouse stated I think that something that's really lacking is really everything laid out. The pros the cons and what exactly the plan is. I mean I hear finger pointing -OK I sent him the letter, he didn't respond. Where is like the list of pros and cons? And everything laid out? I mean this is like a common occurrence with the town. It's like they have all these big plans but they never wanna lay out exactly what the plan is. Supervisor Novak asked can you give me some examples? Attorney Kelson stated: Bill, don't get into a debate. Mr. Clouse stated when we walked in here there should be paperwork - these are the pros and cons. Cause I walk outta here tonight and I still don't know why you're doing this.

**TOWN OF MOUNT HOPE
JOINT FIRE DISTRICT PUBLIC HEARING MEETING
AND WORKSHOP MEETING
NOVEMBER 27, 2012
www.townofmounthope.org**

Councilman Fairweather stated: Mr. Clouse, I want to say - want to chime in. I came to this public hearing for the same reason you did. I wanted to hear the ultimate pros and cons and what the audience had to say. That's what the public hearing is about. Mr. Clouse (inaudible) are to remember that...it has to be written down so I can go home tonight without everyone (inaudible) and sit down and say all right let me figure out for myself. Councilman Fairweather stated the whole point of this; we were approached by the fire department and again, it's been 10 years even before I was on the board, Greg was on the board, Diane was on the board. And it's been just an on going circle. The point to move forward...the point to move forward was to have a public hearing. (inaudible by Mr. Clouse) The point was to have the public hearing to hear what the public had to say. And to bring out the pros and cons. Again, I'm represented by the Howells district. My personal home. I'm not in Otisville. I grew up in Otisville. I've lived here all my life. When I, when people ask me where I'm from, I say Otisville. I want the best for our fire department that's what I want. (inaudible by Mr. Clouse) Mr. Clouse stated: put it on paper. Councilman Fairweather - We don't, I don't personally I do not have a complete list of pros and cons to give you. Because that's why we held this public hearing and we anticipated the village board to participate in it to bring forth those pros and cons. But obviously, the village board has decided not to participate. We felt it was important to still bring it forward. (many people talking over one another) Mr. Simeone asked: if I could just respond. The steering committee has put it on paper. It's been all, it's been sent to the village and it's been sent to the town. It's the letter I referred to before. Mr. Clouse stated: then it should be in my mailbox. Mr. Simeone added: And it's been the work of the steering committee for the last 10 years. You'll hear nothing but pros for a fire district from the steering committee. They've been working on it for 10 years. They've been working because they want to do it. They're not going to give you cons; as far as they're concerned there are no cons. (inaudible from various audience members) Mr. Simeone stated: I have minutes, I'll show them to you. I'll give you the dates of the meeting if you want. Supervisor Novak stated: Rafaele you were next.

Rafaele Carson: I'm Rafaele Carson. I have 2 interests. I mean I work for the Village of Otisville; I think everybody knows that. And I am also a town taxpayer. I have always been in support of the district from the information I've talked with the fire department with. I know a lot of the members. I've always talked about it. It always seemed like a good thing. But tonight I'm a little confused at what's going on here. And I do understand Mr. Clouse would like to have some information in front of us to kind of make decisions based on the information we have. We really don't have it. I'd like to know why the village and the steering committee was against it? Why they didn't proceed with it? Where do we stand right now? Where are we trying to get to at this point? Also, is there any controls on what will happen with the budget once it leaves the hands of the town and it becomes a district? Where is the caps? Is there any caps? Mr. Simeone stated: there's a spending limit on fire districts. There's also 2% funding cap as you know for all local government units but in the case of a fire district you can be overcome by a 3 fifths vote at the board of fire commissioners. The real controls are in the vote for a fire commissioner. They have 5 year terms. They're elected once a year. Staggered 5 year terms. It's fire district elections as Lou said earlier there's 850 or 860 fire districts throughout the state. Mr. Carson stated: what we're, the beginning budget when it first starts, where is, how do you set the limit there? I heard Bill mention something about 'have a budget that's set in place right now'. And we kinda go with that and what the town has already. Supervisor Novak stated: it can't exceed that Rafaele. That's why...Mr. Carson stated: but once the following year goes on after that point? Mr. Simeone stated: as I said there's a spending limit. It's in the statute. The best guess you're gonna get is to what the budget would be is to look at the budget that's given to you. Mr. Carson stated: I would be lying to say as a taxpayer - I've always been for the district - I have to tell you that. But I do want to hear the whole story. I really do. And I hope I don't make any enemies but I have to speak up I do worry about my taxes. I am a taxpayer. So I need to know as a taxpayer what's going to happen to my taxes once we move on and we do become a district. Outside the village if the village doesn't want to have anything to do with it. I need to know where it's goona go. I have to continue to pay my taxes. And I want the guys to have a district. But I gotta have these facts. It's hard to make a decision without really having this stuff in front of us.

**TOWN OF MOUNT HOPE
JOINT FIRE DISTRICT PUBLIC HEARING MEETING
AND WORKSHOP MEETING
NOVEMBER 27, 2012
www.townofmounthope.org**

Mr. Carson (cont.): Can we get this stuff in front of us? (inaudible) Mr. Simeone said: yes but it would be in the towns' hands at that point. The steering committee has made its recommendations. It has told you what it thinks it would need to operate a fire department with the village's participation. If now the steering committee is going to be asked by the town to tell us what your budget would be as a district, the steering committee could do that. But that isn't what we are prepared to do tonight because tonight we prepared this as of October, October 30th to move forward with the village's participation. Mr. Carson added: and again I would really like to know why the steering committee, some of the members of the steering committee felt very strong in favor of a district - now are opposed. Not really sure what happened. I would like really to know what the real story is. Mr. Simeone stated: you would have to ask those specific members of the steering committee. The meetings that I've been at of the steering committee, for example the meeting before I sent this letter of 10/12 to the village, I read this letter to the steering committee. Everyone was at that meeting. And at that point there were, I've got minutes, Marie has minutes too. Marie Bodnar who was keeping the minutes. There must have been 15 people there at least. They all signed on to that letter. Nobody said don't sign it. They all agreed to it. So if there are members of the steering committee here or in the village or the town who do not agree to what the steering committee has proposed let them speak. We can't speak for them. But I don't even know who they are. Mr. Carson stated: I'd like to have them take that opportunity now. Mr. Simeone stated: if you know who they are ask them to speak. I don't know who they are. Mr. Carson stated: I'm not putting anybody on the spot. They know who they are.

Lou Ingrassia: Lou Ingrassia. I'm a fire commissioner in Howells. I would like to speak. I'm not a resident of Mount Hope or the Village of Otisville. I'm not the spokesman for the Howells fire district. That's our chairman Jim Finn. I am the president of the Orange County Fire Districts Association. I think one of the issues or one of the concerns, what I hear a little bit on the outside is that there's a bit of a divide now in the company between district, pro-district, con-district. Most recently in the Village of Harriman, Lakeside Monroe, they just consolidated to a joint fire district down there very similar to the operation that was here. About 10 years ago, Liberty, up in Sullivan County, did the same thing. Consolidation is a big key word right now. Another benefit of a fire district is that you have 5 individuals elected by the public. Like explained tonight. And their only sole focus is to focus on what goes on in the fire district. They're not worried about garbage trucks. They're not worried about water districts. They're not worried about public works employees. They are solely focused on running the fire district. As Mr. Jacobs said from Slate Hill, they do the same thing; they have the same precept that we follow in Howells. And our biggest thing is not to incur debt. We have a tax rate that's very stable. It's been very stable for a number of years. The last time Howells fire district incurred debt was in 1992. We haven't incurred any debt since then. So the main benefit that I see as a fire district is that you have 5 individuals that are elected, a political sub-division, under the laws of NYS and they are elected to solely define what goes on with a fire district, fire protection for their geographic area. I think that's the major benefit of a fire district. And again, I'm speaking as the president of the County Fire Districts Association. We meet on a monthly basis. We have people that come to these meetings. Commissioners from throughout Orange County. I believe there's 52 fire departments in Orange County. I think over 40 of those are represented by fire districts. There's very few village fire departments left. And the main benefit is that you have 5 elected representatives - do not have to be firefighters - we have people on our board that are not firefighters. That's one of the misconceptions is that the firemen are gonna get elected and the firemen are gonna control it and the firemen are gonna tell the firemen what to do. That's not true. At the county level, we have people that come to our meetings, we have past presidents of our association that are not firefighters - have never been firefighters. The main benefit is that you're gonna focus on the business of running a fire district. You're not gonna worry about other things. I think one of the things from the outside looking in, and again, an opinion of mine, that we've seen on a county level is that a lot of villages that end up doing away with their village fire department and converting it into a district the fear is that that's the beginning of the end of the village. I think that's one of the concerns here. Again, from the outside looking in.

**TOWN OF MOUNT HOPE
JOINT FIRE DISTRICT PUBLIC HEARING MEETING
AND WORKSHOP MEETING
NOVEMBER 27, 2012
www.townofmounthope.org**

Lou Ingrassia (cont.): You have consolidation of services between Mount Hope and the Village already through your assessment, through your courts. The village board may be saying you know what, we've lost assessment, we've lost the courts – we're gonna lose the fire district – what's next. They'll no longer be a village of Otisville. They'll no longer be an identity. I think that may be one of the fears or concerns, I shouldn't say fears, one of the concerns of the village. However, I think the major benefit of a fire district is you have 5 elected individuals that are doing nothing but solely focusing on the needs of the fire department that ultimately is gonna protect the people that are in that are in that district. Because at 2 in the morning when you dial 911 they don't care if it's the village fire department, they don't care if it's a fire district. They don't care if it's a paid guy, they don't care if it's a volunteer. They don't care who it is – they just want somebody to come and take care of their emergency at the time. That's really what it comes down to. So, thank you very much. Supervisor Novak stated to Mr. Ingrassia: I've got a question for you. Who elects the commissioners? Mr. Ingrassia stated: the commissioners are elected by the voters in the fire district, similarly to any general election. We have our elections in December of every year. That's set forth by Town law. If you are, would like to run for fire district commissioner position, you pass petitions similarly to a village board or a town board. You get your 25 signatures; that's presented to the fire district secretary. They certify that the petition has been filed correctly with the correct number of signatures and your name goes on the ballot and we vote on the 2nd Tuesday in December of every year. Supervisor Novak asked: so everybody in the district has a chance to be a commissioner. Mr. Ingrassia stated: everyone in the district has a chance to be a commissioner and to vote on the commissioners. You elect one each year, staggered terms so you have continuity on the board. To get back to the budget process, we begin our budget process typically in August. We go through our budget process. We see where we were last year, where we will be next year. We have to file our budget with the towns we represent. We currently cover a portion of Town of Mount Hope, Town of Walkkill, Town of Mamakating. We have to file those with the town prior to the mandated NYS law of public hearing which is the 3rd Tuesday in October. And then the public has a chance to come and look at our budget and speak on our budget and say hey we're either happy with it, we're not happy with it, similarly to a process like this. We are bound by the 2% tax cap. We can by board resolution exceed the tax cap. There are spending limits that we have to stay within so ultimately it doesn't become for lack of a better term, it doesn't become a free-for-all where the firemen set the tax rate and they can get whatever they want. The tax rate in Howells fire district has remained stable for – I've been a commissioner for 10 years – the tax rate has been stable for at least those 10 years. This year I think we had an increase of about 1.3 – 1.4%, due to the different equalization rates in the town. Unfortunately some of the towns get you know different rates. Supervisor Novak stated: our town went down. Mr. Ingrassia stated: Mount Hope did go down actually. Mamakating took a bit of a hit. And Walkkill went up a little bit. Supervisor Novak stated: I will tell you that Ed and I are in Howells fire district and it's well run. So, that's a compliment.

Julie Musial: I just have a question. A couple questions. Number 1 – obviously a lot of people here are getting confused what is being said here. I think it's fair to request that since you guys are gonna meet I believe after this as a Town Board, is it fair to say that you'll ask these guys to do a budget like this going forward on the assumption that the village is not going to participate now. And come up with a new budget going out a couple of years. So say next year you can't exceed your \$340,000.00 whatever's been budgeted for next year. But then the year after that and the year after that I think as a town resident I would like to know what those anticipated costs are going to be – if they're going to be borrowing pumpers or whatever – fire trucks and a building, you know obviously we're gonna want to probably build our own building. You know they're gonna wanna build their own building, purchase their own equipment going forward. So, I think it's fair as a town resident to ask that you guys request a new proposal going out done similarly with the assumption that the village is not going to participate. And, I think they should come back and present that to everyone. Supervisor Novak stated: I believe, and Frank can you correct me that when going outside the budget like for a new fire house or fire truck, that's gotta go to a referendum?

**TOWN OF MOUNT HOPE
JOINT FIRE DISTRICT PUBLIC HEARING MEETING
AND WORKSHOP MEETING
NOVEMBER 27, 2012
www.townofmounthope.org**

Mr. Simeone stated: If moneys borrowed, they'd have to go to a referendum. Supervisor Novak stated: that stuff couldn't be passed by the commissioners, if they were gonna build a new fire house. Mrs. Musial added: right, but what I'm saying is if they're gonna have anticipated budgeted amounts that need to be - you know - they're not gonna be able to indefinitely borrow equipment, indefinitely borrow a building. You know what I mean? There are gonna be certain things that you know you're gonna need that you should be able to say ok next year obviously we only have \$341,000.00 we can do this for you. And, protect you adequately. Going forward then, a year or 2 out, what are you gonna want to do? The next year are you gonna want to get a building? Is that gonna be your main focus or do you wanna get your own fire equipment? I think as a town resident I would like to know how you plan to proceed going forward knowing that the village is not on board. Just - that's my concern, and I would like to know that - you know - that all our residents are adequately covered for fire protection going forward. And I think that's fair and I think that's reasonable for you guys to request that from them. So that we have a better bigger picture as to what it would cost us as town residents. Supervisor Novak stated: okay I think I'm hearing what you're saying but I think that's a question that's gotta be answered by the fire company itself on that thing. What would happen at that point then the decision of the town board would be do we wanna go along with that or do we wanna bid it out to somebody else or something else. Mrs. Musial stated: that's exactly correct. We would have better information as to what's it going to cost us as a town. I think it's more than fair for you guys to ask those questions and request that of them. Because you can't make an informed decision sitting up there not having that correct information. Going by this, it's impossible for you guys to make a decision. It just makes sense to me. You should have the correct numbers, the anticipated costs going forward. Supervisor Novak stated: well I will tell you we are not making any kind of decision tonight. That wasn't the intention of this public hearing tonight. Mrs. Musial stated: the thing is you guys are here. I'm just asking is that fair? Is that a fair request? Councilman Fairweather added: Julie, that was the point of this meeting. To hear your comments. To hear your concerns. That was the whole point of this. There was really no other agenda. Just to hear your concerns. Mrs. Musial added: I am not trying to be controversial or....Councilman Fairweather stated: no I'm not saying it was controversial at all. Mrs. Musial stated what I'm saying is that everyone here...Councilman Fairweather added: we are here to listen. Mrs. Musial stated: I think I am voicing what a lot of people are feeling. And I think they'd like that confirmation. Councilman Fairweather stated: I agree. Mr. Kelson stated: they have to; they have to by law. In other words, whatever element they take whichever avenue they take with or without the village, of course, it's no different than if highway - if you come for highway, you think give me a million dollars. You say give me a million dollars for the following things. They would obviously have to do that. You are absolutely right. That's something we'll do as part of the process. Mrs. Musial added: that makes it more clear to the people sitting here as to what they can expect form our town board.

Ken Coppola: 42 year member of the fire company. And I also serve on the Village board. I'd like to respond to Rafaele Carson. I don't know if he was talking about me or I don't think anybody on the committee now has changed their mind. I was on the original steering committee. I served on it for 2 years. We worked our butts off to put packets together that got shot down by the village board. I was 100% for it. The reason I'm against it now is I don't like the way this steering is served. I would like to respond to what you said about the Mayor. I believe that's what the Mayor is sick. That's why he has to leave. I know he didn't work - he was in bed most of the day. Unfortunately he didn't stay. Um, a letter you received by request, ok, at the meetings. It took 2 ½ to 3 months of our request to the village board to Eddie to get a budget. It was like 2 ½ months after we passed one. He made a statement at a village board meeting. You only asked me for the budget, you didn't ask me for anything else. That's why you got the letter. So you're making the Mayor sound like a bad guy but he shoved this down our throat. It was because of his comment at the village board meeting that you were given that letter. Because we were told by Eddie that that's all you asked for. You didn't ask for any other portion of the steering committee. They didn't ask for inventory or anything else. That's why you got the letter. Mr. Myslinksi added: he did ask for inventory here.

**TOWN OF MOUNT HOPE
JOINT FIRE DISTRICT PUBLIC HEARING MEETING
AND WORKSHOP MEETING
NOVEMBER 27, 2012
www.townofmounthope.org**

Mr. Coppola added: right but you made it sound like the Mayor shoved it down your throat. It was because of a comment made at the village board meeting to the village board is why you got that letter. **Mr. Simeone** added: I understand that but I said once we got the letter, we, the steering committee acted on it and responded. It's not like we didn't respond. Within 3 weeks you had answers to all of your questions. **Mr. Coppola** added: but you made it sound like he was a bad guy for sending you the letter. **Mr. Simeone** stated: no, no I didn't say the Mayor - I said the whole village board. After a meeting on Oct. 30th, after they got the response, and after they said they'd go forward with a public hearing and they said they'd go forward and present it to the voters, the possibility of a fire district, the Village board then 3 days later on it's own motion without saying anything to anyone went ahead and said no, we're out of it. **Mr. Coppola** stated: we never said at that meeting that we would put it to the voters. We did say we wanted to hear the public's opinion. (inaudible) **Mr. Simeone** added: as soon as I got the letter from your lawyer, Howard Dallow, telling me that the village was out, I sent a letter including to you Ken that said if you truly want to let the people decide, come to the public hearing, pass the resolution and schedule the vote. Why that hasn't happened we don't know. **Mr. Coppola** added: I will tell you why I went against it. **Lou Ingrassia** hit it right on the head. The night Wayne Melton was elected, 2 comments that **Mr. Novak** made to him is #1 fire district, #2 dissolve the village of Otisville. **Supervisor Novak** stated: absolutely false. Absolutely false. **Mr. Coppola** stated: you tell me one thing then. The person that told me is in the room. And if this person wants to then they'll stand. I'm saying that you did say that because I was told by another person. That is my biggest fear of this whole thing. Okay - I've been here 50 years - I don't want to see the village dissolve. We lost the police, we lost the court. We lose the fire company, what else do we have left? **Mr. Kelson** added: excuse me. I'm going to interrupt. You didn't lose the police. You have full police protection. You did not lose the court, you have full court protection. It's not about who owns it. **Mr. Coppola** asked: why do you want to form a fire district then? **Mr. Kelson** added: it's not about owning it or not owning it it's about what's the best for the residents. (inaudible) **Mr. Coppola** stated: that's my fear. It's more that we could possibly lose the village. I don't want to see that happen. **Mr. Simeone** added: I don't think there's anybody on the steering committee that wants to dissolve the village. **Mr. Coppola** stated: I didn't accuse anybody on the steering committee - I accused **Mr. Novak** of saying it. **Mr. Simeone** added: I understand that but in none of our discussions, and I've been to several of the steering committee meetings, in none of these discussions did anyone ever say 'you know, if the village lets this fire department be formed, the village is going to be dissolved'. Nobody ever said that. It's a non-issue as far as I'm concerned. (inaudible) **Mr. Coppola** stated: I didn't say it was an issue of the steering committee. I said it was an issue with **Mr. Novak**. **Supervisor Novak** stated: it's not an issue with me. Can you tell me one advantage of the town taking over the village? **Mr. Coppola** stated: I don't know. (inaudible) Do you remember the night you made the comment? **Supervisor Novak**: no I did not make the comment. Wayne? Did I ever make that comment to you? **Mr. Melton** stated: no I don't remember that. **Frank Valentino** asked to speak. **Frank Valentino**, Village Highway Supt. The night Wayne won the election. There was a certain place we went to - you were there. I walked in. I was right behind Wayne. You congratulated Wayne for winning. Which was good. Wayne won. The first thing you said was Congratulations- you're in, we'll get the fire district, and then we'll work on the village. And Wayne said - whoa, slow down. Wait a minute - wait. One thing at a time. And those were the words that came out of your mouth. And I was shocked that you said it. Because me as the village supt., I was like whoa now me, Rafaele. We're gonna be looking for jobs. (applause) **Mr. Carson** stated: Kenny - thank you for clearing that up.

Lou Maurizio: I wanted to ask Lou, does the town have equity (inaudible). **Mr. Ingrassia** stated: no the individuals have equity not the township. **Mr. Maurizio** stated: as far as the court and the village - the village gave the court up. It wasn't taken away. The village board voted to do away with the court. **Supervisor Novak** asked: and how about the police department? **Mr. Maurizio** stated: we did away with that too. The village board did.

Mike Coppola: You touched on this before, say this happens. The village stays here with a few guys. And the town starts a new one. And the budgets approved.

**TOWN OF MOUNT HOPE
JOINT FIRE DISTRICT PUBLIC HEARING MEETING
AND WORKSHOP MEETING
NOVEMBER 27, 2012
www.townofmounthope.org**

Mike Coppola (cont.): And then they go to next budget and say, look – we need 5 million bucks in all reality we could for land, building, trucks, gear for then men. You just touched on it – well you could contract with somebody else. Are you tied into them to keep them or could you have them or could you have them for a year and then contract to Howells, Greenville and Pocatello for less than 5 million dollars for like maybe a million dollars? You know what I'm saying? Supervisor Novak stated: highly unlikely, I would say. Mr. Coppola stated: we had an issue a few years ago with you and the Mayor and you like deserted us. And uh, that night we settled it and you 2 got together. You almost had somebody else. We almost didn't get our money and get the contract. Supervisor Novak stated: no absolutely not. Mr. Coppola stated: yes, I was at the meeting Bill. It was in the paper. Supervisor Novak asked: and what did it say? Mr. Coppola stated: it said that you were gonna - you agreed to meet. But at that meeting you said if they didn't you were gonna do something else. Supervisor Novak stated: no I said there's a possibility. Go back and read the article. Mr. Coppola stated: ok – so a possibility, so you were thinking about it? If we left that night without an agreement... Supervisor Novak stated: the town would have to have fire protection. Yes, we have to have fire protection for our residents. Mr. Hedberg added: if I may? If my memory serves me correctly, when that took place, the Town of Mount Hope was asking to see where the taxpayers money was going as far as fire protection. They were requesting to see the...village decided not to let them see it until they said well, we're not going to pay it. If you can't show us where our money is going, we're not gonna pay it. Bottom line. So, the Village and Brad Pinsky, the attorney at the time, came to us, the fire department, who volunteer our time, and asked us not to respond to calls in the Town of Mount Hope until they paid. They asked us who go out and try and save peoples lives and help people for nothing. Not even a thank you, we don't want it – that's not why we're here. But they asked us not to respond. And I'm still upset about it. But they asked us not to respond and put peoples lives at risk until they paid it. That's why that went on. Mr. Coppola stated: the reason the village said that was... Mr. Maurizio stated: the village never said that. (inaudible)

Mike Osborne: I'm Mike Osborne. I'm in the town. Question to Ken. You said what would be a benefit to become a district. How come we haven't had a new roof on our fire company for over 6 years now? Why can't we get a new roof? Ken Coppola stated: I've been on the board for a little over a year. My term is up in March. I can't tell you what happened 6 years ago. I honestly don't know. Mr. Osborne asked: then how come the DPW is getting brand new siding? (inaudible) Mr. Osborne stated: this would be a benefit to us to put a new roof on this. Mr. Coppola stated: you're right. I'm not saying it isn't. But I'm saying I have only been in for a year and like 8 or 7 months. So don't ask about 6 years when I have no idea why it wasn't done. (inaudible)

Lou Maurizio: I have a response to Julie's question on the (inaudible) when this does go district. And Frank, the lawyer, the steering committee at that time presented the village of Otisville with their findings of what they came up with. They did a 5 year budget. We were in a meeting going over the budget, Skip Coppola says – out loud – oh my god, look at this. 5 years. That budget went 67%. I have a copy of those minutes. I have a copy of everything that steering committee did for the 4 years I was Mayor.

John Doty: I'm the Chief here. My name's John Doty. To go along with Lou, at this present point we are still working off of that budget that that steering committee set 5 years ago. We haven't changed from any or we decreased a little bit. We are within the numbers. When I said 67% I don't mean it went up 67%. Mr. Maurizio stated: Coppola did the math. Mr. Doty said: we always kept the tax rate.....(inaudible) Supervisor Novak stated: what's gone is gone. Let's talk about moving forward here.

Diane Loeven: I don't feel very differently than Rafaele. I am not against the district I happen to think there are a lot of advantages to having a district. I know there's probably a lot of people in this room that are surprised to hear that come out of my mouth. But if the district is ever going to be formed, it has to be done right. And I can't, nothing about what has happened over the last couple of years has convinced me that this is being done right. Right here tonight, people are saying whatever is coming out of their mouths that sounds good. Frank sits there and says that back in 2003 the secretary of the steering committee was the village clerk.

**TOWN OF MOUNT HOPE
JOINT FIRE DISTRICT PUBLIC HEARING MEETING
AND WORKSHOP MEETING
NOVEMBER 27, 2012
www.townofmounthope.org**

Ms. Loeven (cont): The secretary of the steering committee was never the village clerk. Mr. Simeone stated: sorry, she kept the minutes for me. I was at the meetings, yes she was. Yes she was. Ms. Loeven stated: I believe Deb Baker was the secretary. Mr. Simeone stated: that was after Barb. Ms. Loeven stated: there's her husband right there. We can debate that or not but you also stated that money has come out of and I'm speaking as a resident – but I do have history obviously with the budget. You stated that money was taken out of the fire budget over the years and used for things like water emergencies. And I challenge you to prove that. Because that's just not so. Not in the 10 years I had tenure. But my point in bringing it up is not to debate it with you but to point out to people. That's just what you're saying, this is what I'm saying. And they can form their own opinions. Mr. Simeone asked: can you explain since you been on the village board in the past, why the roof still leaks? Ms. Loeven stated: because the chief prioritizes his budget and apparently feels that fire safety equipment and things like that are more important than the leaking roof. I don't know. He's the one who prioritizes the budget. But that's not what I'm here to talk about. I don't believe it's been done right in getting this together. And I'm tired of hearing people just say what they think people want to hear. A couple months ago there was a workshop in this room. The public was allowed to sit in on it but not participate. But right after the workshop, Trustee Melton came up to me and said you know the very 1st thing we're gonna do when we get the district is build a sub-station out in Hidden Valley. And then he talked a little bit more and he said and if we can convince the village to either sell or to either deed us this building we'll level it and build a new building. That's what he told me, now, he can deny it. He can say that he said it but 2 weeks later at a town board meeting I heard him stand up and he and Mr. Novak both agreed that there are no plans to build any buildings. So, how can I as a resident and a tax payer get behind something when I am hearing totally contradictory things. You can't tell people what you think they want to hear on that day. You have to be truthful. You have to be forthcoming. And you have to do your homework. Over the years, yes this has gone on since 2003, but what's happened over those years is that probably on 3 to 4 occasions the fire company has approached the town board, the village board and it's always a hurry up. Hurry up we gotta meet this deadline. Hurry up we gotta do this. The deadline doesn't get met. The action doesn't get taken. Nobody does anything else for a couple more years and then all of a sudden its hurry up, hurry up we gotta do it. Do the planning. And then there's no need to hurry up. We need to know that it's done correctly to be convinced that this is something that's good. Now, my next comment I'm not a town resident; this wouldn't affect me but if I were a town resident sitting here tonight one of the concerns I would have is - hold on - if I'm hearing correctly if the town proceeds to form it's own fire district, they'll contract out temporarily, the district will contract out and then they'll borrow a building and maybe pick up some additional surplus and they'll bandaid it together until they can see what they can do about building and boy if I was a town resident and I was comparing that to the protection you have now for the same price I'd be concerned. Mrs. Musial stated: I wanted to respond to that because I asked about the money. Honestly, I feel very comfortable with going with a fire district. I just want to know what the numbers are. I like to whole idea that we all participate. We all are owners in it. That we all get a say. And believe me, on a town level or a district (inaudible) I'm sure they can bond this stuff out and do the cost over time. That's how things are normally done. I mean, so, I'm not that concerned. I just really want to know what the numbers and what the projections are per hundred thousand. Give me that amount. Tell me how much it's gonna be. If we need a new building, I wanna know how much the new buildings gonna cost. I'm not denying them a new building. I'm sure they need a new building. They need new equipment. That's fine. I just want to know what those costs are and how they're gonna go about bonding or paying for that. That's a fair and reasonable question and I am in support of them wanting to move forward with a district. But I really need to know what those costs are and how they'll project out. I think that's fair for everyone.

Robert Zawasky: I think most of you know who I am. Robert Zawasky. I'm a resident here since 1957. I've got over 50 years in the fire department acting past chief. As far as the district goes and the steering committee, we wanted...we were hoping and we're still hoping that the village would join the joint fire district.

**TOWN OF MOUNT HOPE
JOINT FIRE DISTRICT PUBLIC HEARING MEETING
AND WORKSHOP MEETING
NOVEMBER 27, 2012
www.townofmounthope.org**

Robert Zawasky (cont.): Now the fire district on its own would not be going out on its own on a shoe string but that's the only way we're gonna be able to do it. And it will be done and it will be done probably within a 5 year period. It would be up, running and like Howells and like many other districts, there would be money there. Right now the Village of Otisville, owns that building. Technically they own this building because it's on their property. I put a lot of work into this building. And (inaudible) knock it down. I'll be damned to give it to them. But that's okay. Again, their building. Why are they using money that the Town of Mount Hope residents pay for fire protection, to maintain the building? It's their building. Why don't it come out of their money not the Town of Mount Hope's. Do you understand what I'm saying? I mean yes? No? I've been on the steering committee since its (inaudible). The last time we got shot down Mr. Maurizzio was the Mayor. He sat in on many, many meetings with us. We discussed and we agreed on things. Then all of a sudden it had to go to a vote to the public in the village, if they wanna go district and the Mayor said no. Now the board does the same thing again. The steering committee gets tired of it. The Town of Mount Hope is getting tired of the games that are being played. We have to go district. Get it out of the hands of the politicians and put it in the hands of the tax payers. Thank you. (applause)

Wayne Melton: I'm Wayne Melton. You've heard my name talked about in this room a few times. To address a couple things..from the moment I was a probie in this fire house I said that there needed to be a sub-station somewhere out near Hidden Valley because the people up on the mountain and the far side of the mountain pay more fire insurance rate than anybody else in the 3 miles of a fire district. It doesn't matter if you're in New York or California or any state in between they pay taxes just like everybody else and they pay higher tax premiums because we don't have a sub-station out there. That's why I've said it. I've said it since I was a probie. I'll say it as a trustee. I'll say it as a former trustee. It needs to be out there because we need to serve the people that are paying the same amount of money that everybody else is paying. So that's enough about the sub-station. This building is out run. It's been out run. It's dilapidated. It needs a major renovation. If we were gonna stay on this property, I am not the only one in this room that said we would bulldoze this and build something that would better suit what we have here. Sorry if that's crazy. We are trying to be functional. I've cut many shirts, many pants, many bumps on my head squeezing in between apparatus. Running in and out to fire calls and EMS calls and everything else because we (inaudible) bumping into apparatus – that's how tight we are. It's called parking by brail sorry we have outgrown the building. Next, I've said it publicly, I've said it at the last meeting I don't want the town to go under. Whatever the Governor decides - sorry I mean that the village or hamlets, whatever the Governor decides, the hamlets and villages are gonna go away then that's when we'll come up with a plan. And if he never says, then it's not gonna happen. I don't want people to lose jobs. I'm a union guy myself – that's crazy. That is just absolutely crazy. And as far as what happened the night I won the election, we were at a bar. I was drinking. I don't remember what was said. I had a lot of people that came up to me. I was surprised as hell and I was shaking that night much like I am right now because I didn't expect to win. So that night is a little bit of a whirlwind. So-sorry that I didn't write down what everybody said and I had no clue what was going on.

John Doty: Yeah, I just wanna touch base on some of the talk about the building repairs, the roof leaking and stuff. I've been an assistant Chief for 9 years and been a Chief now for a year. I've sat at many budgets. Sat with Tony, Danny, going over budgets. And at every meeting since Bob put the roof on it and it starting leaking we have told the village board that the roof was leaking at the fire house. We have had people up here trying to look at it trying to put it back together. This year we had \$40,000.00 or \$52,000.00 in Buildings and services to try to maintain this building. I have to put a furnace in this building. It was put in 1991. It's gonna cost us \$40,000.00. Can't fix a roof – put a furnace in – and keep up with all the DEC on this money. I've been saying this to the village board for a year; they need to increase these items. It goes in one ear and out the other. Not that this present board. I gotta give them credit. This present board as of this day works very well with us up here. I give them credit.

**TOWN OF MOUNT HOPE
JOINT FIRE DISTRICT PUBLIC HEARING MEETING
AND WORKSHOP MEETING
NOVEMBER 27, 2012
www.townofmounthope.org**

John Doty (cont.): Because everything I've asked for in the last year I've not been denied. I'll give them that. But I been with boards before where we've had to fight for things. We had to explain why we need when we already proved it and been denied. And we had to go back and fight for it again. This has gotta stop. With the trustees, the commissioners, they do their job. All they worry about is the fire department. I've gone to many village board meetings and sat there and listened about the park for an hour and a half. Whether or not they're gonna put bathrooms in, where are we gonna put the playgrounds. Myself I sit there – I work for the village but the other Chiefs shouldn't have to come down there and listen to all that. They wanna go to the meeting, talk to their commissioners, and deal with it. At the other commissioners, if there's a problem the Chief goes to them hey the building needs repairs. The commissioners go out and find the contractors - not the fire chief or his officers. That's done by the commissioners. Right now...we do that. We go out and get all of our prices and do everything. We do enough as it is. All the calls we go on. All the meetings. All the training. I'm supposed to be at a class tonight for HAZMAT but I (inaudible) to come here. It's time...we act. My...personally, all we ask is for the tax payers to say yes or no. Tired of being governed by people that don't really know what's going on. Let the taxpayers hear us out, let them say yes or no. Then come forward. Let the commissioners; that's all they worry about. That's all they need to worry about. To better serve the community. If anybody here wants to come out here after the meeting and see what we live with and how we work, you're more than welcome. We'll give you a tour. I understand everybodys taxes. I understand that. I pay – I don't actually own I rent. When my taxes go up for the landlord my rent goes up. So nobody here wants their taxes to go up but we have to be able to survive. We have to be able to maintain the safety of the guys that are volunteering their time. Ain't none of us paid up here. We ask to be heard by the public. Let the public have a say. And that's all we can get. That's my - what I have to say. (applause)

Supervisor Novak called on Mr. Cash. Mr. Cash stated I'm going home with a clear conscience tonight. Anybody else?

Wayne Melton stated: one thing I wanted to finish quick. Gonna kinda bring us back basically what we are here for. The village board made up their minds and they are out. I personally didn't agree with it but it was majority voted and that's enough of that. So now, we're here for the town. And the original steering committee budget was based upon next years budget and proposed 2% cap of the state, whether you are a district or not is already in line. I would believe that if there were to be another fire company to pop up in the Town of Mount Hope that it would work well within that prescribed budget. It already is in line. They wouldn't have to worry about the village end of it because the village is out of it. The building, the equipment and everything else would then the budget would be built around that \$341,000.00 to make this a nice, smooth even transition and I don't know if I'm speaking out of line for the steering committee I don't know how many members of the steering committee would even go to one if it were to even arise but some of that bandaidd equipment that was brought up and some of the other things – most of the equipment is tested or meets the same standards and it may or may not have the same bells and whistles as we have but the standard of care that would be given or provided off that apparatus and the individuals that would be staffing that apparatus would be serving as professionals whether they're in this department or another department or anywhere else. So again, the rigs may not look the same but they will put the fire out. And I'm sure they'll do CPR just the same and I'm sure (inaudible). Mr. Ketcham stated: I agree with what you're saying and I really think you guys deserve the district but we are contracted with the village until June and they'd only get half of the \$341,000.00. Supervisor Novak stated: no, no, no, no. We're already paid through May 31st. Mr. Ketcham asked Mr. Melton if he could work with \$300,000.00 Mr. Melton answered: there are many you know...plan A, plan B (inaudible) until the village board did what they did. (inaudible) That's been said all along. But that's not the case. That's not our decision. Now, there's only so much you can do without having a commitment from the town you know really I feel the point we are at now once the town board is gonna have to make a decision and if they do decide not to go with the village again then that's when there's (inaudible) concrete support of the company or whatever they chose to do and the acquisition of apparatus and equipment and everything else would be real instead of in the works.

**TOWN OF MOUNT HOPE
JOINT FIRE DISTRICT PUBLIC HEARING MEETING
AND WORKSHOP MEETING
NOVEMBER 27, 2012
www.townofmounthope.org**

Supervisor Novak asked for further comments.

MaryAnn McDonough stated: I'm not in the town but just so I can get it played out with tonight's skeptics, if the town decides after May 31st not to go with the village is it the town board decides that they're gonna form their own district or join another district and that's what you'll use the \$341,000.00 for? And subsequent to that question, do the town tax payers then get to vote on whatever the town board decides? **Mr. Simeone** stated: I think I can answer that. The town board presently administers fire service in the fire protection district by contracting with the Village of Otisville. They can decide between now and May 31st if they're gonna contract with some other entity. It could be the Howells fire district. It could be the Greenville fire district. It could be a new fire company established by many of the people from this fire department who are tired of waiting – who will establish a fire company in the Town of Mount Hope and then the Town of Mount Hope will contract with them. As a fire protection district. I think the long term plan at the town end and I can't speak for them but the talk has been, the consideration is being given to their taking the fire protection district and converting it to a fire district which would then have separately elected commissioners and would administer fire service much the way the Chief just told you. He does not feel, he's been an assistant chief or chief for 10 years – he does not feel the village is done. He talked about the need for a roof in this building. Who does the work? The same people who get up at 3:00 in the morning and put out an alarm. If the town forms a fire district you have a board of fire commissioners to take that administrative burden.....**Mrs. McDonough** asked: when do these town residents get to vote? **Mr. Simeone** stated: that's up to the Town. I'm sorry. **Mrs. McDonough** stated: that's an answer they need to know. **Mr. Simeone** stated: no they vote for their town council just the way they always do. **Mrs. McDonough** asked: so it will come to a permissive referendum even in the town? **Mr. Simeone** stated: that is correct. Right now the town doesn't get a vote from the tax payers as to whether they should contract with the Village of Otisville. They've just contracted with the Village of Otisville. **Mrs. McDonough** stated: I'm not arguing with you. I just wanted to know the facts because everybody keeps telling you have to vote on this but in essence no one is voting. **Mr. Simeone** stated: your elected representatives. **Supervisor Novak** added: what that means is for 6 months they wouldn't get a vote in that interim when they contracted for fire protection. What they did if they form a new district they would get a vote to who those commissioners are.....**Mrs. McDonough** stated: for the commissioners but not to vote whether they wanna be a district. **Mrs. Coppola** stated: I think what she is saying is in other words they can make that decision on their own without a vote. Am I correct? **Mr. Kelson** stated: technically speaking as the present situation is there is a district. There already is a district and there already has been a determination of that. **Mr. Simeone** stated: it's a fire protection district. **Mrs. Maurizio** stated: there's no need to double talk. The board is being asked if they're gonna make their sole decision if there's gonna be a district. **Supervisor Novak** added: that was already answered. We already have a district. There's already a Mount Hope fire protection district. Who they contract with would be the.....**Mrs. Maurizio** asked: who do you contract with? Who do you contract with? **Supervisor Novak** stated: that's right. That would be a decision of the board who they contract with in that fire protection district. Right now we contract with the Otisville Fire Company. **Mrs. Maurizio** stated: I know that. **Mr. Maurizio** stated: you have 5 members on the town board – does the whole 5 members really think they can operate a fire company and protect the town on \$341,000.00? **Supervisor Novak** asked: does the village think they can run one on \$79,000.00? **Mr. Maurizio** stated: yeah we can. We can. **Mrs. Maurizio** stated: it could cover the village. **Supervisor Novak** added the insurance is \$60,000.00. (inaudible)

Lou Dodd: (inaudible) The company, the membership took a vote and it was probably about 95% of the members that voted - want a change. 95% of the fellas and ladies that are in this company want a change. Like John says, take a walk out in the fire house – we want a change. We want a place to come back to that is reasonably up to code. That we can clean ourselves up and do what we need to do. We want a change. We wholeheartedly support anyone who brings us that change. That's the volunteers. The volunteers that are in that fire company. We want a change. This has got to go beyond politics. It's all you have out here.

**TOWN OF MOUNT HOPE
JOINT FIRE DISTRICT PUBLIC HEARING MEETING
AND WORKSHOP MEETING
NOVEMBER 27, 2012
www.townofmounthope.org**

Rafaele Carson: In support of what Lou was saying, I think it's enough of this bickering with the town and the village. Kenny made it clear; he was worried about our jobs. And I appreciate that. Can't we resolve this? Can't we work this out? Can't we bring this back to the table for the village and the town to work this out? Mr. Simeone stated: well, you know, Diane said before that we're always in a hurry. It's not that we're in a hurry, it's that when the steering committee got word and this has happened 2 or 3 times in the period I've been involved 8 years now, when the steering committee got word that yes the village is ready to move forward, and yes the town is ready to move forward, how can we do it? Yes – I read the law books and I tell them there's a tax status date in this state. In other words if you wanna have something ready for next year, you can't do it unless you did it before March 1st of this year. So, it's not that things are in a hurry. Diane, I think you know better than that. I think that you know that the steering committee is only trying to work with the parameters that they've been given by the village board and the town board. And when we were told this the last time, they were ready to move forward that was in August. Then we got a letter from the Mayor telling us to come up with many, many things. And anyone is free to read this letter. And you tell me if it doesn't put us under the gun to come forward with this stuff in a very short period of time. Some of the stuff, frankly, was ridiculous. I just ask you to read the last paragraph. I won't read it for you. But I'm telling you they were asking us to complete an almost impossible task. Mrs. Maurizio asked him to read it. Mr. Simeone stated: alright, 'we will also need copies of the fire company meeting minutes you mentioned at a village board meeting verifying that a vote was taken to establish a joint fire district in the Town of Mount Hope and that a majority of the members were in favor of it.' By the way, we supplied those. 'These minutes must contain the names of all members who were present at the meeting. We also want you to provide all minutes of steering committee meetings held since November 2008 to show that the steering committee has been actively working through the process for the proposed fire district. These minutes must also contain a list of steering committee meeting members who attended such meeting'. Well, many of these steering committee meetings were held on the fly. They were held as I said - we only just got a secretary. Marie Bodnar only stepped forward - able to do it. Before that we lost our prior secretary. So what we did was we prepared a response to that letter. And we said to the village and the town now if you want us to go forward this is the schedule so that it could be completed by March 1st. And in fact, if you want to hold a special election, yes you've got to do it by a certain date or we won't be ready by March 1st. It'll put us back a year later. So to say that everything's been done in a rush and to point the finger at this steering committee, saying this steering committee has not moved forward, when there are people in this room, past Mayors, member of the village board, they know that they had the opportunity to form this district 8 yrs. ago. They know they had an opportunity to put politics aside. They didn't. And right now the village board is doing the same thing. They're saying they don't want to be involved. Well, frankly, your fire company or a lot of the members of your fire company are gonna say fine then we don't wanna be involved with you. It's too bad but that's where it's going. Mr. Cash asked: is that a threat? Mr. Simeone stated: no I'm just telling you what's going on. Mr. Cash stated: all I've heard is your attorney. We haven't heard from the steering committee. (inaudible) Supervisor Novak stated: we've heard more than we've heard from the Village. Mr. Cash stated: you're right. And you know what? Other than what I'm gonna say, you aren't gonna hear anymore. And you can make that part of the record. For 10 years he talks about answering the questions. That he's answered the questions. Except that one that I've been asking for the last 10 years. How much is it gonna cost? They haven't told you yet.

Supervisor Novak stated: okay I'm gonna wrap this up here. Nobody including myself, wants to see the village dissolved. Mr. Cash stated: I'm glad you brought me this. Excuse me. Proposed budget. Goes into 13? 14? The word proposed. It's just what it is. A proposed budget. When they do organize and they find out that it's not enough money then this proposed budget goes (at this time Mr. Cash crumpled the budget paper). And they'll start all over again. Mr. Simeone stated: he'd like to respond to that. Mr. Cash, you do the same thing with your village board budget. There's no other way to do it than to propose it.

**TOWN OF MOUNT HOPE
JOINT FIRE DISTRICT PUBLIC HEARING MEETING
AND WORKSHOP MEETING
NOVEMBER 27, 2012
www.townofmounthope.org**

Mr. Cash (cont.): stated no you don't. You're going on what you hear. Let me tell you something. If he were our attorney, he would not be....Supervisor Novak stated: we said at the beginning that we were not gonna get into name calling. What I was gonna say here is nobody on this town board including myself wants to see the village dissolved. If somebody here can give me an advantage to the town taking that village. It would create special districts. The tax rate is 4X as high in the village as it is in the town. Poor maintenance on a lot of equipment and buildings. If a new fire company did come in here, I will tell you that I would definitely consider contracting with them.

Bryan Franck: Basically my question is directed to the town and village board. How do you come up with any budget? It's proposed. Through sitting down at your workshops and everything else. Correct? Is that correct? This is a question I'm expecting someone from the village board to answer me as a village tax payer. Ken Coppola stated: the only thing I can say Bryan as far as that is it is proposed and then the village board votes to approve the budget. Mr. Cash's statement was this is a proposal from the steering committee about the fire district and he's absolutely correct. When that committee is formed, 5 commissioners will go like this and they can make that budget anything they want. (inaudible) Mr. Franck added and the village board just did November 1st. All the work we just did that I don't get paid for that Eddie, that Bob or anybody else in this room you guys made one decision. You said it was all about the tax payers – correct? (inaudible) Well, guess what? In March I will make my democratic process known. Because you took it away from me with a swoop of a pen. So guess what? What he did was disrespectful to the fire department and the members and anybody that's ever come before me and you so...I'm telling....

Supervisor Novak stated: Bryan. Bryan. All right. I want to thank everybody for coming. And we will proceed from here. Now we are gonna be conducting a Town Board meeting - a workshop meeting here. You're welcome to stay if you wanna hear it. It's gonna be real quick.

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE PRIOR MEETING MINUTES:

MOTION by Councilman Bell seconded by Councilman Ketcham to approve the minutes of the November 8, 2012 and October 30, 2012 meetings as presented. All in favor – Bell, Ketcham, Novak, Sutherland, Fairweather. Carried.

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Notification from Pizza Mania re: renewal of liquor license
2. Highway budget modification
3. Police Budget modification
4. Memo from Building Inspectors re: hours changing for December through March.

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE POLICE BUDGET MODIFICATION:

MOTION by Councilwoman Sutherland seconded by Councilman Fairweather to approve the budget modification as follows:

From Revenue A3389 into Police P/S A3120.1 \$706.00.

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

RESOLUTION TO CHANGE LAST MEETING OF THE YEAR:

MOTION by Councilman Bell seconded by Councilman Fairweather to change the last meeting of the year from December 24 to December 27 at 7:30pm at the Town Hall meeting room. All in favor – Bell, Ketcham, Novak, Sutherland, Fairweather. Carried.

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE HIGHWAY BUDGET MODIFICATION:

MOTION by Councilman Bell seconded by Councilman Ketcham to approve the budget modification as follows:

Increase Unclassified Revenue D2770 in the amount of \$1,437.85 and

Increase Refuse/Garbage C/E B8160.4 in the amount of \$1,437.85.

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

**TOWN OF MOUNT HOPE
JOINT FIRE DISTRICT PUBLIC HEARING MEETING
AND WORKSHOP MEETING
NOVEMBER 27, 2012
www.townofmounthope.org**

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE PROBATIONARY POLICE HIRE REQUEST – JAMES CORCORAN:

MOTION by Councilman Fairweather seconded by Councilman Bell to hire James Corcoran as a probationary non-competitive police officer effective 11-29-12. All in favor – Bell, Ketcham, Novak, Sutherland, Fairweather. Carried.

RESOLUTION TO SIGN SETTLEMENT WITH WASTE CONNECTIONS:

MOTION by Councilman Bell seconded by Councilman Ketcham to authorize the Town Supervisor to sign the settlement with Waste Connections for reimbursement of overcharges for monthly refuse removal customers within the Town of Mount Hope. All in favor – Bell, Ketcham, Novak, Sutherland, Fairweather. Carried.

EXTENSION AGREEMENT WITH THE GREEN TEAM HOME SELLING SYSTEM:

Board discussed renewing the agreement through May 31, 2013 with Geoff Green of the Green Team. Board agreed to have Mr. Green come to the next town board meeting on Dec. 10, 2012.

RESOLUTION FOR AUDIT OF CLAIMS:

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

GENERAL A:	#633-673	\$ 56,216.67
GENERAL B:	#117-123	\$ 14,904.64
HIGHWAY:	#175-184	\$ 41,462.71
SEWER:	#115-122	\$ 5,882.30.

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

RESOLUTION FOR ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION by Councilwoman Sutherland seconded by Councilman Fairweather to adjourn the meeting at 9:34pm. All in favor – Bell, Ketcham, Novak, Sutherland, Fairweather. Carried.

The next meeting is December 10, 2012 at 7:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen A. Myers
Kathleen A. Myers
Town Clerk

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Town Board of the Town of Mount Hope and the Village Board of Trustees of the Village of Otisville, in the County of Orange, State of New York, will hold a public hearing for the purpose of jointly proposing the establishment of a joint fire district. The public hearing will be held on the 27th day of November, 2012, at 7:00 p.m. at the Otisville Firehouse located at 60 State Street, Otisville, New York, for the purpose of considering the proposed establishment of a joint fire district and to hear all persons interested in the establishment of said district.

The objects and purposes for which it is proposed that the Otisville – Mount Hope Joint Fire District be established are for the assumption of all responsibility for fire protection within its boundaries commencing on January 1, 2014, with the operations of the Otisville – Mount Hope Joint Fire District (excluding fire protection) to commence on or about May 6, 2013 by and under a five (5) person Board of Fire Commissioners, to be initially appointed by the Town Board of the Town of Mount Hope and the Village Board of Trustees of the Village of Otisville and thereafter elected pursuant to the applicable provisions of the Town Law.

Said territory within the Otisville – Mount Hope Joint Fire District, as proposed, is generally described as follows:

OTISVILLE – MOUNT HOPE JOINT FIRE DISTRICT
OVERALL PARCEL
20 +/- SQUARE MILES

All those certain pieces or parcels of land situate in a portion of the Town of Mount Hope, County of Orange, State of New York, and being known as the Mt. Hope Fire Protection District

- together with -

all those certain pieces or parcels of land situate in the Village of Otisville, County of Orange, State of New York.

NOTICE IS HEREBY FURTHER GIVEN that the Town Board of the Town of Mount Hope will hold a public hearing for the purpose of dissolving the presently-existing Mt. Hope Fire Protection District in the Town of Mount Hope, which Fire Protection District was established by resolution of the Town Board of Mount Hope on June 4, 1945.

Said public hearing will be held on the 27th day of November, 2012, at 7:00 p.m. at the Otisville Firehouse located at 60 State Street, Otisville, New York at which time all interested persons are invited to attend. The objects and purposes for which it is proposed that the presently-existing Mt. Hope Fire Protection District in the Town of Mount Hope be dissolved is to facilitate the establishment of a Otisville – Mount Hope Joint Fire District.

BY ORDER OF THE TOWN BOARD
OF THE TOWN OF MOUNT HOPE

Dated: October 30, 2012

Public Hearing Attendance Sign in Sheet

Name	Town	Village	Question
James Nani ZANK KETCHAM	Times Herald Record Mt Hope	Herald Record	-
V.M. COPPOLA	OTISVILLE TOWN	OTISVILLE	
Mary Beth Horzempa	OT	Otisville	
Robert Jastembowski	TOWN		
Dretta Payer	TOWN		
BRYAN FRANCK		OTISVILLE	
Robert Gawashy	TOWN		
Harry Willis	✓		
Haris Jay Nusin			
Serina See	✓		

