

**PUBLIC HEARING FOR 2015 PRELIMINARY BUDGET  
AND REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING  
TOWN OF MOUNT HOPE, NOVEMBER 6, 2014  
[www.townofmounthope.org](http://www.townofmounthope.org)**

The **PUBLIC HEARING FOR 2015 PRELIMINARY BUDGET** of the Town Board of the Town of Mount Hope was held at Town Hall, 1706 Route 211 West, Otisville, NY on **November 6, 2014** at 7:15pm with the following present: Supervisor Chad Volpe, Councilman Matt Howell, Councilman Gary Ketcham, Councilwoman Janet Sutherland, Councilman Dominick Cambareri and Town Clerk Kathleen Myers.

**OFFICIALS PRESENT:** H'way Supt. D. Hassenmayer, Dep. Police Chief M. Byrne, Atty D. Bavoso.

Supervisor Volpe called the Public Hearing to order following the Pledge of Allegiance.

**PUBLIC HEARING FOR 2015 PRELIMINARY BUDGET at 7:15PM:**

Supervisor Volpe called the Public Hearing to order for the 2015 Preliminary Budget at 7:15PM. The public hearing notice was available at the front desk with Kathleen. Copies of the budget are available. He asked for questions from the audience and the board. **P. Nelson:** On 1<sup>st</sup> budget page he noted an increase in the fire department budget by \$60,000.00. He asked if this has been approved yet. **Supervisor Volpe:** that gets approved by the fire district itself. If you go down past where it says special districts, everything there and below, we act as an agent for them. They submit a bill. They're their own board. They give it to us and the only thing we do is collect taxes and forward it on. Their own board approved...the \$325,000.00 was an existing contract that we have with Mount Hope Fire Company. The existence of Mount Hope Fire District; technically becoming a taxing authority effect. Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>, put their own budget together and approved their budget and submitted their bill to the town board. **P. Nelson:** do we have a breakdown of the \$325,000.00 contract that they signed? **Supervisor Volpe:** a breakdown as to what they are using the \$325,000.00? **P. Nelson:** what they spent the money on. **Supervisor Volpe:** I don't believe we do because the contract they sign is with the Mount Hope Fire Company is a private company. **J. Musial:** that # went down from the fire district from that 1<sup>st</sup> meeting that I went to. What was changed? Could you tell us? **Supervisor Volpe:** sure, it says MHFD final budget 2015, legal fees \$15,000, Secretary/treasurer fees \$5,000, Times Herald record bill 2014 estimate \$5,000, Times Herald Record bill 2015 estimate \$5,000, FOIL request est. \$1000, repay MHFC 2014 expenses paid \$9068.94, professional fees for dissolution est. \$20,000; subtotal \$60,068.94. Then, fire department operation budget as contracted \$325,566.13; total proposed budget 2015 \$385,635.07. **A. Barton:** I came to a meeting about a year and a half ago. There was a fire meeting. Whoever runs fire department stood up and said 2% this year, 2% next year, 2% the next year. This is a lot more than 2%. What's going on? We have a contract. How can they come back for more money after they already signed the contract? **Supervisor Volpe:** I agree with you. I also went to the meeting myself and argued the same thing you are arguing right now. It even says on their website: 2%, 2%, 2%. It'll never go up more than 2% and it's 20%. **A. Barton:** but why, we have a contract with them? **Supervisor Volpe:** we have a contract with...**A. Barton:** I remember them signing the contract 3 years, most of the people in the town didn't even want it. They did it anyway. And here we are with this big increase. **Atty Bavoso:** the contract itself was with the company. The district is a separate taxing authority. So the district....**A. Barton:** are those the same people we voted out that we didn't want here? How are they...**Atty Bavoso:** Yes, they are because at this point they are still in existence. Until they end up winding down and finish the dissolution process. Under NYS law they are still recognized as....**A. Barton:** but there is no dissolution if you're gonna vote them back in in January. **Atty Bavoso:** we are not voting them back in, actually this board isn't even voting in their budget. They voted in their own budget because they're still in existence. **A. Barton:** I mean the new commissioners - that's what I'm talking about. They're having an election on 12/09. That's what we voted out and they're coming back at us. **Atty Bavoso:** I understand what you are saying but the winding down process takes some time under NYS law. And, the district continues to exist until the winding down process is completed. That's why new commissioners are needed because the district is going to exist at least partly in to next year. **P. Nelson:** does that mean we don't see the accounting of the district budget? We can't see what they spend?



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**PUBLIC HEARING CONTINUED:**

**Atty Bavoso:** You can but you have to FOIL the budget from the district because again they are their own taxing authority. The Supervisor just ran down the \$60,000 increase. The remaining of it would have to be FOILed from the company and the fire district. **J. Cooke:** I might be right/wrong. My understanding was a lot of this increase is for things they spent this year like atty fees and stuff like that. My concern is they are already budgeted how could they mismanage budgeting so much money when they knew what #'s they had to work with. If it was a problem being incorporated, couldn't they have had the option to sell a piece of equipment to resolve it. They have lawsuits and everything else and to me they went a little too far. It's not just fire protection spending. It seems like more beyond what we expected to be paying for. This is an add on to something not already happening. When it happened they should have been accountable for it and have the means to pay for it. **Supervisor Volpe:** I can tell you that it was discussed at their meeting that it was a loan basically money that the district spent in 14, was the loan that the company gave to the district and now this is a repayment. That was exactly the way it was explained at the district meeting. **J. Musial:** so they were spending money they didn't actually have which I don't understand. That being said, if the fire company was kind enough to give them the money which obviously they were, shouldn't they have come to taxpayers beforehand to say how much they were gonna be spending? I mean...they were spending money they didn't technically have. Shouldn't they have to come to the taxpayers for that? Do we know if that should have been done? **Atty Bavoso:** I think it would have been prudent but unfortunately I don't represent the district or the commissioners so I don't know what their rationale is. **J. Musial:** What they're voting on there is for a 2015 budget. The monies I've seen on things they handed out at the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting was for stuff they already spent money on. So that was 2014 expenses. I think they should have come to the town's people, if at all possible, or even to the town board to say listen these are expenses that we see that we're going to incurring, what should we do? It seems funny to spend money beforehand when you don't actually have it front of you. **Atty Bavoso:** I agree with you. **L. Maurizzio:** Wasn't some of that money considered political? Spending money against their own taxpayers for ads, signs. **Councilwoman Sutherland:** If I'm not mistaken, didn't it drop about \$6,000? They took everything out, it's my understanding, that had been questioned at the public hearing. **J. Kowalczyk:** but didn't the taxpayers pay this money one time to the fire company and it was their decision to give it to the fire district? So we gotta pay it back – what we already paid once? **Councilwoman Sutherland:** what? **J. Kowalczyk:** the fire company gave the fire district money (inaudible) \$6,000. **Councilwoman Sutherland:** this is in addition to the legal fees – is my understanding as Mr. Bavoso explained it. **J. Kowalczyk:** I'll ask you then. The money was given to the fire company as a part of the budget, they took it and turned around gave it to the fire district. When you lend money to somebody, the taxpayers shouldn't have to pay it back twice. **J. Musial:** I think that's what she's saying. They took it out of that amount that's now on there. The new one \$60,000 as opposed to...**J. Kowalczyk:** 66? **J. Musial:** I think....(inaudible) **M. Taylor:** (inaudible) didn't we mention there was a 9 thousand some odd dollar payment back to the MHFC? Could you confirm that there was a payment back to the MHFC? **Supervisor Volpe:** yes. **J. Musial:** they already made a payment? **M. Taylor:** that would be, that in my mind, we already paid that once. Why would we wanna pay again? **Councilman Howell:** Chad, is one of those items marked for 2014, Times Herald Record for 2014, then an estimate for 15? If the district is projecting a budget for 15, how can we pay last year's bills if the district wasn't in place last year? **Atty Bavoso:** if they're paying for bills that are in 2014, there's nothing to say those bills wouldn't be outstanding in 2015. I believe that would be their rationale. That is part of their budget. They're building in paying off those past bills that are accruing. **M. Taylor:** does that budget have to come before the taxpayers for a vote? **Atty Bavoso:** the fire district budget? They basically had to hold a public hearing then vote on it. **M. Taylor:** is that scheduled do we know? **Atty Bavoso:** it already happened. **M. Taylor:** what about a vote? Do they have a public vote for this? **Atty Bavoso:** no it's only the commissioners that have to vote. Just like for the town budget itself, not the special districts, it holds a public hearing and then it votes for the budget. **P. Nelson:** on the same subject, I am looking at a breakdown for 2014, against the MHFD. Cumulatively, they paid \$9068.94. If you look at 2015 – going a year forward, they are projecting that another \$60,680. So instead of having a budget of 325 or a target, we gotta pay \$60,000 more – for what?



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**PUBLIC HEARING CONTINUED:**

**Councilwoman Sutherland:** is that up there somewhere? **P. Nelson:** Are we asking the right people? **Supervisor Volpe:** yes. I doubt it's up there. **Councilman Cambareri:** actually no. You'd have to ask the fire district themselves. The fire district tells us what their budget is. We have no say in it. **P. Nelson:** what about the contract that you signed? **Councilman Cambareri:** the contract we signed...**P. Nelson:** You just pull the contract out and tell them you take all you want? **Councilman Cambareri:** that's with MHFC. We had a contract with MHFC for fire protection. Then they formed this fire district which is their own taxing authority. **P. Nelson:** they take over the legal obligations of MHF... **Councilman Cambareri:** at one point in time, the fire district with the fire company to provide the town with fire protection, which I don't think that's been done yet either. They are their own taxing authority. We have no say in what they charge us. **P. Nelson:** that's fine. But we have a contract. **Councilwoman Sutherland:** You actually do have a say in what they charge you. **P. Nelson:** what if I ran a company I told you - you have a contract with me..I said to you I can't do it for that anymore, I gotta charge you this. The contract is void. They're bankrupt if they don't have the money. It's not my problem, it's theirs. **Councilman Cambareri:** That's precisely our argument. **P. Nelson:** The worst part is you can't get a breakdown of what the budget numbers are. So how do you even come up with a point - this is my budget. **Councilwoman Sutherland:** If I am not mistaken, for the fire company there was a breakdown. The fire company had a breakdown and turned in their budget. Then, if I'm not mistaken, when the fire district was formed, it was voted down before anything could happen. So, these fees - this ad you are looking at for the legal fees and whatnot at the time that it was in existence which it was shot down before anybody gave it a chance or asked appropriate questions or anything else. That being said, this is where that money is coming from. And as Mr. Maurizio pointed out during the public hearing there were questions as to the signs or this that or the other thing, they took that off the table, they pulled it out of the budget, and handed in what it was, because the dissolution process is not cut and dry. Especially because it was kicked out before it ever started. That is my understanding. **J. Musial:** Basically the \$60,000 is an amount incurred because of what the old town board did and the town people speaking and saying they didn't want a district. **Councilwoman Sutherland:** I don't believe so. I believe it was based upon the dissolution being brought up and going through and that's where it came from. **J. Musial:** as per the taxpayers as per what their vote was. **Councilwoman Sutherland:** taxpayers, my understanding again is that the initial article to dissolve the fire district was put out on the table and then it was put out on the table again and then it was put forth and without anybody asking the questions as to what this would mean or financially or truly educate themselves on what it meant, this is where we are at now. **J. Musial:** Wasn't that the responsibility of the fire district to inform the people as to what the expenses were? What it would cost the taxpayers in order to dissolve..wasn't that their responsibility as a district? **Councilwoman Sutherland:** no, I don't believe it was their responsibility. **J. Musial:** Chad - wasn't that their responsibility? I understand that Janet's not understanding it but is the whole town board's understanding or our attorney's understanding that that's the case? **Councilwoman Sutherland:** David, is it the responsibility of the district or since you're not representing the district you can't say but...**C. Furman:** I think it was also the prior town boards because I remember being here the night of the meeting that they were gonna sign this through as a district and 99.9% of this room was saying no and the town board just signed it through like it was ok. **Councilwoman Sutherland:** That's funny it wasn't 99.9%. **C. Furman:** I was here Janet - I don't know if you were. **Councilwoman Sutherland:** I was. We all have different perspectives. **J. Musial:** can we go back to my original question? Should the district representatives/commissioners come to the taxpayers and told them before this whole vote went down what it would cost them to do that? **Councilwoman Sutherland:** why would it have been up to the district to say how much it would cost to dissolve - it should have been up to the people that brought the lawsuit. Or the referendum and everything else to let people know. They hadn't even gotten off the ground. **Supervisor Volpe:** Really, the case is this. The 1<sup>st</sup> time they got a chance to do a budget instead of going up 2% they went up 20%. That's the facts. **Councilwoman Sutherland:** Why did they go up 20%? **Supervisor Volpe:** Quite honestly, you can do a dissolution plan...**Councilwoman Sutherland:** don't talk to me like that. **Supervisor Volpe:** I'll talk to you anyway I want.



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**PUBLIC HEARING CONTINUED:**

**Councilwoman Sutherland:** no, you're not gonna. **Supervisor Volpe:** I won't talk to you. **Councilwoman Sutherland:** if you want to go in executive session... **Supervisor Volpe:** Quite honestly they could have done a dissolution plan by writing 4, is it 4 sentences, Dominick? But instead we have to draw it out and then just sucks the taxpayers for as much money as they can. **Councilwoman Sutherland:** Honestly, I think that probably the best time to have this conversation is with the fire district attorney present because if I'm not mistaken... **Supervisor Volpe:** that way we can pay a little more. That would be awesome. **J. Musial:** better question. With the fire commissioners that we have, this is way they've chosen to do this plan? **Supervisor Volpe:** to raise taxes 20%, yup. **J. Musial:** to raise taxes 20%, when is the vote? **Supervisor Volpe:** they already voted. **Councilwoman Sutherland:** it did not raise the taxes 20%. **J. Musial:** and if you vote in the new commissioners and they decide to dissolve it in a different manner could that possibly make that amount go down? **Supervisor Volpe:** yes. **C. Furman:** how long does that process take before that would end up to be? **Atty Bavoso:** my understanding is that in order to create the dissolution plan, the district has 6 months to put it together. Beyond that there's incremental time periods. I don't know them specifically because I don't have the statute right in front of me. **C. Furman:** if we did per se pass this budget, and for them to have the money, by next year this time at this budget time, would that be dissolved and that would be turned back to... **Atty Bavoso:** it seems like it would be a reasonable time period given the situation, as I understand it, with the district. It's my understanding that the district itself doesn't own any assets whether it be property or equipment. I may be wrong on that. If that's the case, then it seems like the plan would be fairly easy to execute. **L. Maurizio:** they stated at their meeting that there was no assets. They have nothing. The only thing they have is a bill – that they borrowed from the fire company knowing that they're going out the door. **Councilwoman Sutherland:** Nobody knew that they were going out the door until August 12<sup>th</sup>. That's when it was made clear that they were going out the door. But if I'm not mistaken, the state can still, if the dissolution process, you're saying how easy it is to write 4 or 5 sentences and dissolve a district, if the state is not satisfied with the dissolution process, the state can negate everything that's already been done. Which is why, my understanding is, that they are moving forward in the way that they are moving forward. So that that does not happen. Because if the state finds that there is inadequate fire protection, there's no mutual aid, nobody is able to be covered, nothing is going to protect the citizens of the Town of Mount Hope. Then guess what? They can overturn it. **M. Taylor:** They have a contract... **Councilwoman Sutherland:** I'm not scaring people. I'm saying that this is what is coming down from the state. This isn't just about the Town of Mount Hope fire company. **M. Taylor:** why would - the previous town board signed a 3 year commitment for fire protection with the Mount Hope fire company whether the board exists or doesn't exist, what changes that? **Councilwoman Sutherland:** You are misunderstanding nothing changes the contract with the fire company. **M. Taylor:** then they're dragging this out is what you're telling me. If the requirement from the state is that there's sufficient fire protection in place... **Councilwoman Sutherland:** if the district dissolves.. **M. Taylor:** excuse me, if the requirement of the state is that there be sufficient fire protection while MH fire company already exists, apparently it has met that requirement and there's an existing contract for service, I don't see why it would be a big deal to dissolve the district. **Councilwoman Sutherland:** it would not be a big deal. The problem would be that if the state finds, for example, let's say because we all know that the current town board would not contract with the Town of Mount Hope. **M. Taylor:** it exists. We're not worried about 3 years from now we have lots of options hopefully in 2 or 3 years from now.. **Councilwoman Sutherland:** I'm telling you Mr. Taylor, you asked me a question and I'm answering you. **M. Taylor:** I'm trying to explain where you're misguided in terms of that being this contract exists that provides protection. **Councilwoman Sutherland:** and I'm telling you what I'm hearing from the state. **M. Taylor:** which is? **Councilwoman Sutherland:** that if it is not proven that there is adequate fire protection in the area, in the area, that perhaps this whole thing will be negated. **M. Taylor:** as sufficient, if the Mount Hope fire company has sufficient personnel & sufficient equipment to support the contract, to support the needs previously, what does it matter?



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**PUBLIC HEARING CONTINUED:**

**Councilwoman Sutherland:** if Otisville had the adequate fire protection, my understanding is that they would have already turned over the paperwork necessary to show that they have it. That's actually one of the reasons this process is being held up because the Village of Otisville has not turned in the information they've been asked to turn in. **M. Taylor:** do we have somebody from the village who can either agree with that or refute it? **M. See:** I FOILED NYS for the proper people that are in MH fire district and the proper people that are in Otisville fire district: what training they got and specifications and what I got back was a joke – from the state. I was very disappointed. They had no clue. They had people that were still from Mount Hope on Otisville people that were – I mean it was a joke. This is amazing. Nobody has 'governship' of this. I went to the county level. I went to the state. They sent me back stuff and I was like oh my. **M. Taylor:** is that the responsibility of the fire company to keep those records and apply them? **Councilwoman Sutherland:** Mount Hope has- they are waiting on Otisville. **M. Taylor:** The way that he's making it seem is that there are fire personnel on showing up on Otisville that belong to Mount Hope then somebody didn't do their due diligence. **Councilwoman Sutherland:** If you pull up Mount Hope's staffing, you'll find it. If it's not being done properly in Otisville, I can't answer to that. **M. Taylor:** I don't get that impression. I get the impression it's at the state level. **Councilwoman Sutherland:** What's being held up on the dissolution process is the Otisville paperwork. **W. Melton:** to clarify the state issue, they just transitioned 2 years ago to a statewide record keeping system and they have members of different departments in opposite sides of the county fire departments and we went and asked them for the training abstract of every class they've taken in NYS and it's almost 6 weeks now. He still hasn't populated everybody into one department because he exposed - and this is Jim McCann – who runs the fire training center – he's exposed a Pandora's box of just the state when they switched the system, well nobody was dotting their i's and crossing their t's. So it's not just the fire company, I can attest....**M. Taylor:** I can appreciate that. I just didn't know where the disconnect was. Thank you. **J. Musial:** I hear a lot of Otisville fire company being thrown around here, I don't really care right now about the Otisville fire company all I'm asking is that obviously the MHFC know who their members are. Our fire district obviously should know who the members of the MHFC are and their qualifications because they absolutely are our coverage right now in the Town of Mount Hope. It's my understanding as a tax payer, that we are covered until June 2016 with the contract that is in force. Is my understanding correct on this? Yes? So I don't understand why Otisville is being thrown in this mix. How and why they're being drawn into this because how we can say who the members of the Otisville fire company are going to be in a year and a ½..excuse me as opposed to who the members of the MHFC are going to be in 1 ½ years just seems really irrelevant at this moment in time. **Councilwoman Sutherland:** In this moment in time it would seem irrelevant. That is not anybody here – that's the state. I don't think anybody here maybe Mr. Bavoso can answer it. I don't understand either why that matters in the dissolution process. **J. Musial:** as you know and I know as volunteers people can join and switch back and forth and we've seen it done between different fire companies, different fire departments just giving 3 people that I know have gone from Otisville to the Mount Hope to Cuddebackville. It happens. It goes on. **Councilwoman Sutherland:** I'm not disputing that. I'm just telling you what my understanding is from the state. That's all I'm saying. **J. Musial:** I don't understand that relevance. **Councilwoman Sutherland:** So then you'd have to ask the state because I don't think any of us know. **J. Musial:** do you have a good number that we can contact somebody? That's really my confusion here. I don't understand why Otisville is being dragged into this when it's my understanding that we're contracted with MHFC until 2016. **Councilwoman Sutherland:** This is what the state is looking at. **Atty Bavoso:** I have. I am going to be contacting the comptroller via letter. In my opinion, I don't believe that that contract is effective anymore. The town currently has the contract with the company. The town only has the power to contract with the fire company that's created the fire protection district. It had been my understanding since I took over this role, that this was still a fire protection district. It wasn't until a few weeks ago, that I'd finally seen the resolution where it turned into a fire district. If that's the case, in my opinion, and it was created as a fire district, this town has no authority to be in that contract anymore. It would be the fire district's responsibility to contract with the fire company in order to provide fire protection.



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**PUBLIC HEARING CONTINUED:**

**Atty Bavoso cont.:**

At this point, and I'll take some of the onus on this because I know it is a big issue, I have advised the supervisor to collect the full amount with the contract amount and with the extra \$60,000 so that the town has collected those taxes on behalf of the fire district in the event that provided my letter comes back from the comptroller and they say yes the contract still is in effect, then the town has the monies. Knowing that in the future if the comptroller comes back and says no that contract isn't in effect here's what you should do with your money. We'll have it available and then that money would potentially go towards lessening the tax burden the next year. I think that the district from certain individuals has been from what I can see, mismanaged from the beginning. I understand the district putting the \$325,566 in as the contract amount, as potential budget plus the 60 because they are the separate taxing authority but I have recommended that the town raise all of the monies so that we can clear it up with the comptroller so we are covered either way. **R. Wheeling:** David or Chad, so the amount that's in the budget for the MHFC is that the money that's due June 1<sup>st</sup>? **Atty Bavoso:** yes. **R. Wheeling:** the \$60,000 is the calendar year 2015 and the 270 is the June 1<sup>st</sup> of 2016 of the contract amount? **Supervisor Volpe:** That's another question that's gonna be for the comptroller because as a district they go calendar year. As a district we should really have only paid 7 months. We should have paid through December then the taxes for Jan. of 16 would be collected for fire protection of 16, too. In essence, we're charging taxpayers through June 2016 on a 2015 budget...if that clears it up. It's my recommendation that we either get reimbursed 5 months and then we'll cut them a check for the whole \$390 or we only pay them for 7 months plus the 60. Again, that's my recommendation.

**RESOLUTION TO CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING:**

**MOTION offered by Councilman Ketcham seconded by Councilman Howell to close the public hearing at 7:50 and open regular meeting. All in favor: Howell, Ketcham, Volpe, Sutherland, Cambareri; carried.**

**RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE 2015 TOWN BUDGET:**

**MOTION offered by Councilman Cambareri seconded by Councilman Ketcham to adopt the 2014 Town Budget as presented. All in favor: Howell, Ketcham, Volpe, Sutherland, Cambareri; carried.**

**RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT THE PRIOR MEETING MINUTES:**

**MOTION offered by Councilman Howell seconded by Councilman Ketcham to approve the minutes from the 10-20-14 meeting as printed. All in favor: Howell, Ketcham, Volpe, Sutherland, Cambareri; carried.**

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

1. Humane Society agreements from Walden and Middletown
2. Planning board surplus request for computer components
3. Complaint letter re: fireworks
4. Police policy: Electronic recording of Interviews for approval
5. Standard work day & reporting resolution for amendment
6. Building dept. report 10-2014
7. MHFC reports: 10-20-14 & 11-6-14
8. Public hearing notice re: Roeder's ark 11-19-14 at 7pm
9. 2015 Library agreement

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**POLICE DEPT. by Deputy Chief Byrne:**

Dep. Chief Byrne spoke re: new policy Electronic Recording of Interviews. That's a piece of equipment given to us by the County through a grant at no cost to the taxpayers. It allows us to make video recordings of any interviews that we conduct per policy. The policy mirrors the county policy. He helped draft the policy in '07.



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**POLICE DEPT: CONTINUED:**

Any homicides or any Class A, B or C violent felony offenses be recorded. Under Section C it allows for a supervisor to request or require that any interview be recorded as well.

**HIGHWAY DEPT. by Supt. Hassenmayer:**

Supt. Hassenmayer spoke re: gable ends of barn were rebuilt at the park. Still some minor roof repairs to be done on it. Sand & salt has been mixed for the winter. They filled in the pool at the building behind police station. **Supervisor Volpe** talked to Dean about the Christmas Tree lighting being on Dec. 9<sup>th</sup>. Dean will have the tree ready.

**MOUNT HOPE FIRE COMPANY by W. Melton:**

Bailout training completed. This was funded by a grant. He read the report into the record. **Councilwoman Sutherland**: how many hours were put in for the bailout? **W. Melton**: 90 something hours with 16 people. Prior to this training they barely met the requirements. Now they have harnesses issued to interior members which makes it safer. He explained that Jan. 23, 2005 6 guys from FDNY jumped out of a window equal to 6 stories. 3 died and 1 died several years later. One had internal decapitation – never worked again. Another got busted up real bad and never went back to work. Only the probie went back to work. This was brought to Albany which then it was mandated that every department in NYS with <1 million population has to have bailout training and annual refresher training. Next round will include harness, bags, training all through a grant.

**OLD SCHOOL:**

Supervisor Volpe asked Dean to bring lift over to old school next week. Chris will show him the spots marked out for the tar. He needs a day notice and he will meet you there. **Councilwoman Sutherland** asked how much this will cost. Dean said it will cost about \$20 for a bucket of tar.

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE POLICE POLICY re: ELECTRONIC RECORDING OF INTERVIEWS:**

**MOTION offered by Councilwoman Sutherland seconded by Councilman Ketcham to approve the Electronic Recording of Interviews police policy as presented. Policy on file in Town Clerk's office. All in favor: Howell, Ketcham, Volpe, Sutherland, Cambareri; carried.**

**RESOLUTION FOR THE STANDARD WORK DAY AND REPORTING:**

**MOTION offered by Councilman Howell seconded by Councilman Cambareri:**

**Be it resolved, That the Town of Mount Hope/Location Code 30364 hereby establishes the following as standard work days for elected and appointed officials and will report the following days worked to the New York State and Local Employees' Retirement System based on the timekeeping system records or the record of activities maintained and submitted by these officials to the clerk of this body: Highway Superintendent, Town Supervisor, Town Clerk, 2 Justices for 6 hours per day (Copy at end of these minutes). All in favor: Howell, Ketcham, Volpe, Sutherland, Cambareri; carried.**

**HUMANE SOCIETY CONTRACT:**

Supervisor Volpe had attorney read these before the meeting. His intention is if Dr. Roeder gets approved obviously he would like to keep it local and use her facility. However, she will not be operational by January 1<sup>st</sup>. We contract with Deerpark Humane Society and they've been in violation this year. He had 2 agreements. Deerpark you pay a set amount up front. These 2 (Middletown & Walden) you pay per dog. If you go there and they're full they won't take the dog. He recommends approving both Middletown and Walden contracts. It will not cost the town money unless we bring an animal there. If Dr. Roeder is functional within the 1<sup>st</sup> couple months of 2015, we can use her instead.



**PUBLIC HEARING FOR 2015 PRELIMINARY BUDGET  
AND REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING  
TOWN OF MOUNT HOPE, NOVEMBER 6, 2014  
www.townofmounthope.org**

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE HUMANE SOCIETY CONTRACTS WITH MIDDLETOWN & WALDEN:**

**MOTION** offered by Councilman Cambareri seconded by Councilman Howell to approve the Humane Society contract with Walden and Humane Society contract with Middletown. All in favor: Howell, Ketcham, Volpe, Sutherland, Cambareri; carried.

**RESOLUTION TO SURPLUS AND DISPOSE OF COMPUTER EQUIPMENT:**

**MOTION** offered by Councilman Howell seconded by Councilman Ketcham to surplus and dispose of the following computer equipment from the planning board office: Dell XP computer tower Serial #CNoG1494-7082133D624L and a Dell monitor model #E772c. They no longer work. All in favor: Howell, Ketcham, Volpe, Sutherland, Cambareri; carried.

**WEBSITE:**

Supervisor Volpe stated he is soliciting vendors to do a website for the town. The current one is not friendly. He hopes to have 3 or 4 quotes by the next meeting.

**LIBRARY CONTRACT:**

Supervisor Volpe explained the current contract. The new price per card for 2015 will be \$75/card. Initial installment will be for 100 cards. Overall cost next year will be cheaper.

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE LIBRARY CONTRACT:**

**MOTION** offered by Councilwoman Sutherland seconded by Councilman Cambareri to approve the Library Contract between the Town of Mount Hope and the Port Jervis Free Library for 2015. Copy on file in Town Clerk's office. All in favor: Howell, Ketcham, Volpe, Sutherland, Cambareri; carried.

**CORNELL:**

Supervisor Volpe explained that Cornell has done a lot of work at the site. He was told there approx. 8,000 yards of top soil. Dean stated there's more every day. Supervisor Volpe added that he would like to do an RFP to get rid of topsoil. There was an issue with people going there and wanting it. The foreman that works for Cornell said there's about 8,000 yards of topsoil and could get about \$10/yards. This is a town asset. This should be put out to bid. **Councilman Cambareri:** to Dean: do you have all the top soil you need for your mine. Dean: yes. They brought in about 8-9,000 yards this summer. **Councilman Cambareri:** this is surplus? Dean: yes.

**RESOLUTION TO SOLICIT RFP'S FOR SALE OF SOIL AT PARK:**

**MOTION** offered by Councilman Ketcham seconded by Councilwoman Sutherland to approve the town going to bid for RFP's for the 1<sup>st</sup> 8,000 yards of topsoil from the Cornell site at the park. All in favor: Howell, Ketcham, Volpe, Sutherland, Cambareri; carried.

**MONTHLY BILLS:**

Councilwoman Sutherland questioned the bill from Dr. Roeder for the dog that was rescued. She spoke of the website GOFUNDME.com that was to be used for this dog with about \$1,100 on it now. Why would we pay this if there is this site? I am a dog lover. I have a dog. That's not it. Supervisor Volpe said he doesn't know what all the fees will be. Atty Bavoso: asked does the work they are doing with the dog fall under contract? Supervisor Volpe: absolutely. Councilman Howell suggested that an alternative be if Dr. Roeder gets these monies for the dog, that she reimburse the town.

**RESOLUTION FOR THE AUDIT OF CLAIMS:**

**MOTION** offered by Councilman Howell seconded by Councilman Cambareri to approve the following bills:

GENERAL A:	#610-651	\$ 60,639.55
GENERAL B:	#91-94	\$ 9,702.19
HIGHWAY:	#163-169	\$ 29,913.26
SEWER:	#98-103	\$ 4,151.02.

All in favor: Howell, Ketcham, Volpe, Sutherland, Cambareri; carried.



**PUBLIC HEARING FOR 2015 PRELIMINARY BUDGET  
AND REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING  
TOWN OF MOUNT HOPE, NOVEMBER 6, 2014  
[www.townofmounthope.org](http://www.townofmounthope.org)**

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

J. Kowalczyk: spoke re: fire commissioners discussing the dissolution and the cost. He was told the town board created it. He FOILed the information and he received a letter stating it wasn't specific enough. Atty Bavoso: FOIL rules require that you request a particular type of document. So if you submit a request that said receipts relating to the fire district of expenditures from the town or something of that nature. Those would be actual records. Just saying you want the cost wasn't specific enough. In order to provide the record we need to know what the record is you are seeking. Resubmit and be more specific. Receipts or payments made by the town board or authorized by the town board for the creation of the fire district.

M. Maurizzio: asked what's going on with Dr. Roeder. Supervisor Volpe stated she is looking to house up to 5 animals like a humane society would. She would only contract with the village and the town.

**BOARD COMMENTS:**

-Councilman Cambareri: we have a problem with people using this room. In the beginning of the year Janet had a problem with people stealing her mail. A week ago someone was caught stealing mail out of Chad's box. He was questioned. Only things for town business should be held here not the historic society or the fire district. This is a place of business. Let them use the community center that's for the community. Supervisor Volpe asked if there was availability to move those groups there? Town Clerk stated she did not know. There are regular people/groups that meet there. Councilman Ketcham: his understanding is the commissioners can't meet at senior center because it's in the village. Councilman Cambareri stated that when the seniors come here they bring a coffee pot and table and there's no sink here. They'd be better off at the senior center. The fire district – they can meet at the fire house. Councilman Ketcham added that State law says they have to meet in the confines of the district. The senior center is not the confines of the district. M. Maurizzio: well where would they meet if they can't meet at senior center and can't meet here? Supervisor Volpe stated it's not our problem. He suggested they make the motion to be effective January 1<sup>st</sup>. This will be tabled until next time.

-Councilman Howell: asked why Howells Fire department doesn't give a fire report. R. Wheeling stated their meetings are open to the public and they are not required to report. Their meetings are every 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of every month. Atty Bavoso: asked if they were invited, would someone be amenable to that? R. Wheeling: yes. Atty Bavoso: Maybe someone from the board should reach out to someone from the department and ask them to do a report once a month.

-Supervisor Volpe: spoke re: fireworks complaint. He would like for letters to go out to the neighbors. Councilwoman Sutherland: people in her neighborhood love the fireworks. Should we encourage people to write letters that good things happen? Supervisor Volpe: sure.

**EMPLOYEE MANUAL CHANGES:**

Supervisor Volpe stated he would like to discuss changes to the personnel handbook and needs to go executive session to do this.

**RESOLUTION TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

**MOTION** offered by Councilman Cambareri seconded by Councilman Howell to enter into executive session at 8:24pm to discuss changes to the personnel manual. All in favor: Howell, Ketcham, Volpe, Sutherland, Cambareri, carried.

**RESOLUTION TO RECONVENE REGULAR SESSION:**

**MOTION** offered by Councilman Howell seconded by Councilman Ketcham to reconvene the regular meeting from executive session at 8:38pm. All in favor: Howell, Ketcham, Volpe, Sutherland, Cambareri, carried.

**RESOLUTION TO ADJOURN:**

**MOTION** offered by Councilwoman Sutherland seconded by Councilman Ketcham to adjourn the meeting at 8:38pm. All in favor: Howell, Ketcham, Volpe, Sutherland, Cambareri, carried.

**The next meeting is November 17th at 7:30pm at the Mount Hope Town Hall.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Kathleen A. Myers, Town Clerk





Office of the New York State Comptroller  
New York State and Local Retirement System  
Employees' Retirement System  
Police and Fire Retirement System  
110 State Street, Albany, New York 12244-0001

# Standard Work Day and Reporting Resolution for Elected and Appointed Officials

RS 2417-A  
(Rev. 3/14)

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Mount Hope (Name of Employer) 130364 (Location Code) hereby establishes the following standard work days for these titles and will report the officials to the New York State and Local Retirement System based on time keeping system records or their record of activities:

Title	Standard Work Day (Hrs/day) Min. 6 hrs Max. 8 hrs	Name (First and Last)	Social Security Number (Last 4 digits)	Registration Number	Tier 1 (Check only if member is in Tier 1)	Current Term Begin & End Dates (mm/dd/yy-mm/dd/yy)	Participates in Employer's Time Keeping System (Yes/No-If Yes, do not complete the last two columns)	Record of Activities Result*	Not Submitted (Check only if official did not submit their Record of Activities)
<b>Elected Officials</b>									
Town Clerk	6	Myers, Kathleen	1179	38679361	<input type="checkbox"/>	01-01-14-12-31-15	N	41.75	<input type="checkbox"/>
Town Supervisor	6	Volpe, Chad	8132	60542826	<input type="checkbox"/>	01-01-14-12-31-15	N	22.79	<input type="checkbox"/>
Highway Superintendent	6	Hassenmayer, Dean	7892	38768065	<input type="checkbox"/>	01-01-14-12-31-15	N	36.92	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Appointed Officials</b>									
Assessor	6	Ketchum, Dennis	8302	37723012	<input type="checkbox"/>	10-1-13-9-30-14	N	10.39	<input type="checkbox"/>
					<input type="checkbox"/>				<input type="checkbox"/>
					<input type="checkbox"/>				<input type="checkbox"/>

## SEE INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING FORM ON REVERSE SIDE

I, Kathleen A. Myers, secretary/clerk of the governing board of the Town of Mount Hope, of the State of New York, (Name of secretary or clerk) (Circle one) (Name of Employer)

do hereby certify that I have compared the foregoing with the original resolution passed by such board at a legally convened meeting held on the 6th day of

November, 20 14 on file as part of the minutes of such meeting, and that same is a true copy thereof and the whole of such original.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and the seal of the Town of Mount Hope on this 6th day of Nov., 20 14, (Name of Employer)

Kathleen A. Myers  
(Signature of the secretary or clerk)

**Affidavit of Posting:** I, Kathleen A. Myers, being duly sworn, deposes and says that the posting of the Resolution began on Nov. 17, 2014 and continued for at least 30 days. That the Resolution was available to the public on the (Date)

☒ Employer's website at www.townofmounthope.org

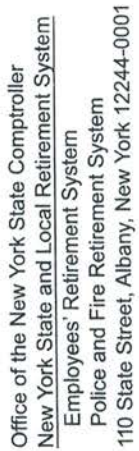
☒ Official sign board at Town Hall

☒ Main entrance secretary or clerk's office at Town Hall

Page 1 of 2 (for additional rows, attach a RS2417-B form).







110 State Street, Room 1000, Boston, MA 02109  
 (Rev. 3/14)

[illegible]

Employer Town of Mount Hope

Location Code 30369Page 2 of 2

(use with form RS 2417-A)