

REGULAR MEETING, TOWN OF MOUNT HOPE, OCTOBER 3, 2016

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The regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Mount Hope was held at Town Hall on October 3, 2016 at 7:30pm with the following present: Supervisor Chad Volpe, Councilman Matt Howell, Councilman Brian Carey, Councilwoman Janet Sutherland, Councilman Dominick Cambareri and Town Clerk Kathleen Myers.

OFFICIALS PRESENT: H'way Supt. D. Hassenmayer, Chief P. Rickard, Attorney D. Bavoso.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Supervisor Volpe called the board meeting to order at 7:30pm.

RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT THE PRIOR MEETING MINUTES:

MOTION offered by Councilwoman Sutherland 2nd by Councilman Howell that the minutes of the 9-14-2016 budget meeting, 9-19-2016 town board meeting as submitted are approved. All in favor: Howell, Carey, Volpe, Sutherland, Cambareri; carried.

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Amended highway term extension resolution
2. Copy of corres from Mayor DeStefano re: Indigot Creek
3. Palmer's Ark impound report Sept. 2016
4. Building Inspector's report 9-2016
5. Budget modification from police dept.
6. County resolution re: Indigot Creek
7. HV Water re: repair of water main leak

BOARD REPORTS:

Councilman Howell: no ZBA meetings scheduled at this time.

Councilman Carey: Football monthly meeting moved to Nov. 2nd. He met with Julie and Rich Mayfield & Joanne Fazzino from the county. Took a tour of the town to look at some grant opportunities. He will meet with Scott from the Planning Dept. on Friday. He will have more info for next meeting.

Councilwoman Sutherland: no report.

Councilman Cambareri: 1st public session a couple weeks ago for the Master Plan. Wasn't as well attended as we'd thought. Perhaps we need more advertising for the next one. Had a meeting after that and there was 2 people from the public for that. They are all open to public. They can ask questions in the public answer session. Still in preliminary stages. Nothing to report for the sewer department or old school.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT by Highway Supt. Hassenmayer:

Highway Supt. Hassenmayer reported:

1. Trash days starts Wednesday. Everything ready to go for it. 3 senior pick-ups are scheduled already.
2. Highway guys have re-striped the roads. They had a bad batch of paint. The vendor replaced it (3 totes @ 275 gallons/ tote) at no charge. It actually separated and gummed up the sprayers.
3. They've done some ditching before winter comes.
4. He requested executive session for a personnel issue.
5. Supervisor Volpe noted that he spoke with Dean earlier re: a couch at Devan's Gate. He asked to have Roger go see the court clerk's tomorrow to get his thoughts on an additional door for the justices to have a separate entrance.

MOUNT HOPE FIRE: no report.

POLICE DEPT. by Chief Rickard:

Chief Rickard reported:

1. He explained the budget modification was for fingerprint grant. We have to pay for it then the state will pay us back.
2. He spoke re: medical capabilities of the police department. He's been asked a lot of questions. Everyone is certified AED/CPR. They carry tourniquets & can handle trauma.

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We can administer quick clot. Another concern is people needing oxygen. He looked into the department being able to administer oxygen. He spoke to Mobile Life. Mobile Life ordered the equipment for them. They will do the training. Within the next month – weeks will be certified to administer oxygen. We have 1 officer that's an EMT. We have some 1st responders. Supervisor: confirmed that each officer will get certified for the oxygen and each car would have it in it. Chief: correct. They have 5 ordered. 1 for each car. Each car has an AED. Chief's car also has one. Mobile Life will do training for free. They will order equipment and we will pay Mobile Life. Councilman Carey: how does oxygen work once you administer it? Chief: It's 1 for 1. If we use a mask, Mobile Life will give us one for free. If we bring the tank to Middletown, they will fill it for free. He heard Otisville Fire will do it for free but hasn't gotten that far. Supervisor: already got it – no problem. Chief: There were also concerns about the school. He spoke with the school. The building is totally sprinklered. There's also a supplementary water supply tanks that feed the sprinkler system. This is tested annually.

VILLAGE OF OTISVILLE by Trustee Loeven:

They meet later this week. They will adopt the Halloween curfew as well.

INDIGOT CREEK:

Supervisor Volpe: several meetings since the last meeting. County moved forward with putting it out on the floor. They meet this week. Basically on behalf of the residents here I was looking for 2 things. One is for testing to be done to ensure that it wasn't going to affect any of the wells. And he wanted insurance to say that if anybody's well went dry or they were having issues that the C/O Middletown (since they are benefitting from the water) would either drill that person a new well or would hook them up to their municipal water. Melissa seemed ok with it. She spoke to Langdon Chapman and he said it's 'kind-of' in there. He explained to him that 'kind-of' doesn't really help him. He wants to see it in plain English and we were denied. He's not giving up. He will write another letter. He believes Red Hossan & Dan Depew are also on board with it. We keep hearing it's gonna be fed to Middletown which will be fed to Annie's Kitchen which is gonna bring 936 jobs. They're saying that if that's to happen while they're testing the water then they wouldn't take it. He doesn't know why they won't put it in plain English. I don't think we were asking for a lot. We are not looking to make a profit out of it. We just want the assurances that our residents are going to be taken care of. He added that 1 of our highway workers approached him saying that when the county did their testing and drilled the wells about 2 years ago, his well went dry. And all the sediment that was in his pipes – he had to replace his appliances because of the sediment. He's sure the DEC will ensure the proper things. Councilman Carey asked if could get any compensation for this? Supervisor stated that he gave him the info for Melissa and the county clerk.

BUDGET MEETING:

Supervisor stated that he had some minor changes to the budget and would like to have another budget meeting. We got Howells fire number in, the library number in and there's some other amendments he needs to make. He would like to have another budget meeting before the next board meeting.

RESOLUTION TO SCHEDULE PUBLIC HEARING FOR BUDGET:

MOTION offered by Councilman Howell 2nd by Councilman Carey to schedule a public hearing for the budget on October 17, 2016 at 7:15pm. All in favor: Howell, Carey, Volpe, Sutherland, Cambareri; carried.

RESOLUTION FOR HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT TERM EXTENSION:

MOTION offered by Councilman Cambareri 2nd by Councilman Howell as follows:

WHEREAS, the term of the Highway Superintendent of the Town of Mount

Hope is currently two (2) years; and

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WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Mount Hope sought to allow the qualified voters of the Town to determine if the term of the Highway Superintendent should be extended to four (4) years; and

WHEREAS, on September 6, 2016, the Town Board of the Town of Mount Hope adopted Local Law #10 of the year 2016, a local law titled "EXTENDING THE TERM OF THE OFFICE OF THE HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT" pursuant to §23 of the Municipal Home Rule Law of the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, the Local Law #10 of 2016 is subject to mandatory referendum pursuant to the Municipal Home Rule Law of the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Mount Hope must establish the proposition for the mandatory referendum to take place on November 8, 2016,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Mount Hope adopts the following language as the proposition for the referendum to be held on November 8, 2016 pursuant to §23 of the Municipal Home Rule Law:

"Should the term of office of the Highway Superintendent of the Town of Mount Hope be extended from two (2) years to four (4) years. Yes _____ No _____".

All in favor: Howell, Carey, Volpe, Cambareri; NAY: Sutherland - carried.

TOWN NEWSLETTER:

Supervisor Volpe: we're hoping to get this out by the end of the week. He passed out the sample newsletter to the board. He noted those that gave letters to go in it. He explained for the fate of the old school section. You would come to town hall and see either Kathleen or Paula to be able to vote. The labels we have we got from Dennis and we will make another copy so as the recipients of the letter come down they would be able to say what they want to do with it. He showed a sample ballot. You would pick option 1, 2 or 3. Put it in the box. Nov. 4th at 4pm is cut off. That will give them 3 weeks to get here to vote. Regardless of what the vote is – that will determine the way that I will personally vote. We can only do permissive referendum on an action. So hypothetically if option A is what everyone voted on, then I would vote to go with option 'A' then I ask the board to do permissive referendum so that we can ensure that that's what the voters want. He gave other examples. Newsletter will go to every household. Do I think it's 100% - no. It's better than the 50-60 people that came to the public hearing. Option 1- the town of Mount Hope repurposing the old school. I want to be as vague as possible. I don't want to steer the community in any way. They are then directed to the website. The price we have for re-fitting is from KC Engineering. That would be on the website. The voters would be able to research themselves. The demo & removal of the old school. They can look at the website and see the prices. Option 3 – turn over to the LLC. And see the website for the link to the presentation on there. All of these items we have to have in paper form available for the public to see in person. Councilman Carey: this goes out to every resident. They only get one copy. Who in that household can come down in vote/come to look and choose one of these options? Supervisor: anyone can come look. But to vote – only one per household. It's not fool-proof. I have 5 voters in my house. But we only get one vote. Councilwoman Sutherland: I think you are also limiting those that can't get here. The elderly in the community. Limiting them and their ability to vote if they can't get down here. That's something to think about. Carey: can we put something in there that if they have any questions that they can contact...I think there's every opportunity there but maybe like the senior meeting or hometown helpers meets.

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Supervisor: how many people do we deliver meals to? Town Clerk: that's not indicative of how many actually live there but there's probably 13 between both routes. If they got their newsletter & put their vote in a sealed envelope and put their address on the front of it then that's how we would cross it off the master list. But that's only 13 people. Also out of those 13 there is only 8 or 9 that are in Devan's Gate. The rest are spread through the community. Supervisor: what if we put the option in there to mail it back? They have 3 weeks to do it. That's how an absentee ballot works. We have room on there. We make that one change to it. Town Clerk: we can work it out. Board was good with that. Councilman Carey suggested to put it in large print.

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE TOWN NEWSLETTER:

MOTION offered by Councilman Howell 2nd by Councilman Carey to approve the October newsletter. All in favor: Howell, Carey, Volpe, Sutherland, Cambareri; carried.

GIRL SCOUT TROOP 105:

Supervisor Volpe received an email from Girl Scout troop 105 from Minisink. They are looking to do a little library, if they can get it approved. It's a 36x24 inch box – 15 inches deep, filled with books that are free for the community. The idea is that people can take a book, return a book or donate a book. They said they talked to the village already. Their proposal for us would be perhaps outside the senior center. They have no problem coming in to talk to us about it. He told them he didn't think anyone would object to it. Councilman Carey added that he saw one in Port Jervis. It was nothing big or ugly. It's a neat idea. Supervisor: within the next meeting or two they will submit paperwork or come in an address the board.

TIME WARNER CABLE:

Supervisor reported that we have huge issues here with our internet. If 3 people are on – it doesn't go. Some of our videos from the meetings take 2 or 3 days to upload. It paralyzes the whole computer. After research, it's slower than dial-up. We solicited Frontier and Time Warner. Paul and I met with Time Warner. Their proposal is currently \$38 cheaper than what we are paying. It would cover everything we have now plus. The senior center would have wifi. It would be increased by 5 times the speed. They will lock in the price for 3 years. He needs approval to sign 3 year contract. Councilwoman Sutherland asked the total amount. Supervisor doesn't have a total. Chief – added that it would cover the senior center, too. Councilman Cambareri confirmed that it is cheaper than what we pay now. Supervisor: approx. \$36 cheaper than what we pay now. Councilman Carey asked if it is phone and internet. Supervisor – correct. Carey: how will it work with alarm companies? Like the old school? Supervisor: that's a separate connection. That is a modem thing.

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE CONTRACT WITH TIME WARNER:

MOTION offered by Councilman Cambareri 2nd by Councilman Howell to give Supervisor the authority to sign the contract with Time Warner Cable for 3 years. All in favor: Howell, Carey, Volpe, Sutherland, Cambareri; carried.

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE BUDGET MODIFICATION FOR POLICE DEPT.:

MOTION offered by Councilman Cambareri 2nd by Councilman Howell to approve the following modification:

Increase revenue line in Contingency account A1990.4 by \$11,000.00 & decrease Police Contr. A3120.4 by \$11,000.00. All in favor: Howell, Carey, Volpe, Sutherland, Cambareri; carried.

RESOLUTION TO THE AUDIT THE CLAIMS:

MOTION offered by Councilman Howell seconded by Councilman Carey to approve the following bills Abstract #19:

GENERAL A:	#559-601	\$ 58,648.40
GENERAL B:	#126-129	\$ 3,960.44
HIGHWAY:	#143-151	\$ 23,424.15
SEWER:	#73-79	\$ 15,623.52

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

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PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

Lou Dodd: is the town board aware of the houses that might be greatly impacted by them drawing out of the 6 wells they presently have there? Supervisor: yes. Dodd: do they know who owns those houses that would be greatly impacted? They are owned by the county. One when you ride in Murray Road. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 – they are owned by the county. What comes through there – that is a huge aquifer that comes through there. That goes under that property runs up through the intersection of where the old Grange used to be located, runs in through Devan's Gate, circles around & runs through where the village has their water aquifer and from there I don't know where it runs from there. It runs out towards Greenville or Pine Island. Supervisor: it runs through Greenville. Dodd: if you see where the reservoir is right now, that all pertains to most of those wells there. If you were to do a line shot from the top of that water to most of those wells that are there because 3 of those houses still have a hand dug well which they drove casing down into – they have a shallow well pump. So when they start drawing that water out of there, it's gonna impact a lot of people. If you're gonna do something to protect people and they agree to it, please make sure there's a radius to that protection because if something happens to the people on Murray Road or Shawangunk that's gonna affect my well and all wells in Mount Hope. The reservoir water is the reservoir water. Years ago when the reservoir went down, there's a 2' pipeline that runs from Old Mill Beach up above that where Kinches dam and runs above ground to the reservoir property behind my house. Supervisor: the contract is 500,000 gal skimmed off the top & 500,000 drilled per day every day of the week. Dodd: this pertains to all of us here. As long as they're gonna put a meter out there & we can send somebody to check. Supervisor: the person taking the water is also the lead agent. I have an issue with that. Bavoso: just so you know where they are in the process – the action the county is taking & the C/O Middletown is just to establish the easement for potential use in the future. The supervisor, Dominick & I and Greenville Supervisor met with the Mayor, DPW director and the attorney for the C/O Middletown. I have a very good relationship with the attorney for Middletown and they were a little surprised that Mount Hope & Greenville had gotten the correspondence because they hadn't seen it before. The easement is to allow them the potential for development there. However, the understanding is just for the easement. If Middletown at any point wants to start looking at the potential for infrastructure within the easement they're getting, they still have to do a full study as to the impact to the wells, they have to do a study on whether or not they can draw the amount they want to draw and then they have to demonstrate a need for the actual water. Once they establish all those things they have to go through the SEQRA process for each individual piece of....Dodd: but if you didn't get wind of this, they would have been drawing out half a million gallons of water. That's a big deal. Does anyone know why those houses are all owned by the county? Councilman Howell: the county wanted to make a county wide reservoir. Dodd: absolutely, where my house is was supposed to be the edge of the reservoir. They seized and condemned all those properties years ago and took them from their homeowners to make a giant reservoir. The water is not there. They still have the right to draw all the water out of Old Mill Beach, right? They put a new dam in there.

Bob Clouse: The newsletter is going out by then end of this week? Supervisor: it'll start going out by the end of this week and finish the beginning of next week. Clouse: to every house in Mount Hope? Or just the voters? Supervisor: every household. Clouse: do you plan on having a permissive referendum no matter what the...of the 3 options? Supervisor: yes. Clouse: no matter which one wins? Supervisor: no matter which one wins. Me personally, I would ask that the board follow suit and do permissive referendum. It would be great if we got 2,000 of these back but like other things it'll probably be 4 or 500. The permissive referendum will only be on the action that we took. It won't be for 3 options.

Alan Lewis: He complimented the summer concert series. They are concerned with the Indigot Creek situation. He & his wife spoke with Melissa Bonacic due to article in paper. Melissa sent him a copy of the letter sent to the town. How many residents draw from this aquifer? He would like to see a map of this aquifer. There must be a geologist that did work on this. They have one for the other side of the mountain for the Bashakill area. How can taking up to 1 million gallon of surface and ground water/day from Indigot Creek not affect anyone's well? It has to affect people's wells. Our well in particular had to be drilled down 300' and we got minimum flow. This will be a real issue for me. To what extent is the DEC involved? DEC should be monitoring this very closely. Any map that you look at shows the headwaters/streams leading into Indigot Creek are shown as Shawangunk Kill. I don't know how they can take headwater of a trout stream. They should be very involved. What extent is the town going to be involved if and when this ever gets off the ground – is there going to be monitoring by a committee or a person from the town to make sure that Middletown does what they are supposed to, the county does what they're supposed to do? Supervisor: we just got listed as interested party finally –I would say probably not. The county is going to be the one who has the rights and they'll oversee what Middletown does. I don't see how they'll allow us to be a father figure to it. Lewis: I talked with 1 of the county legislators and they mentioned that it's probably a fate of complete. This Thursday they will vote to move ahead with this and to put everything in place to move ahead with what they have to do to make this happen. They want the water available to Amy's Kitchen. There's also the issue of Legoland. They're gonna balance their budget and receive money on the backs of the small towns and the village. Supervisor: when we sat with them the 1st time, there was 14 of us around the table and we had questions. One was mandate 72 hour pump test while they're doing it, mandate a well field test, drought impact evaluation. If it doesn't rain for 6 months, will you still take 1 million gal/day?

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Supervisor: basically the meeting ended "we have the votes we need and you guys can have a nice day".

Lewis: is there any legal recourse. Bavoso: you can file an Article 78 if you don't feel there was proper procedures followed. Lewis: that would slow or stop the process. Bavoso: potentially, yes. Supervisor: asked Mr. Lewis how his response from the county was. Lewis: Melissa was helpful. Sent a copy of the letter. She will be monitoring it very closely. The other legislator said basically it's gonna go through. How is the OC water authority playing into this, were they present? Supervisor: no they were more involved with OC community development because of all the jobs. We're talking about water here. Technically it's not our water. It does run through our town. I'm hitting a lot of road blocks. Lewis: we are going to the meeting Thursday night. It's held at the 911 emergency center. Councilman Cambareri: what was said to us was they're not where they need to be yet to involve the DEC. That will come after they do the well testing. Lewis: we have a call in to the DEC as well. Chief: can we object to them being lead agency? Cambareri: we objected to Middletown being lead agency because they are the ones..Chief: legally - you see everywhere else in the county the southern end there's groups objecting to certain groups being lead agency and it seems to slow them down. Supervisor: I don't think the county wants to because Middletown is incurring the cost. Chief: isn't there a court action? Bavoso: the Article 78. Sutherland: can we do that? What would have to happen to do an Article 78? Bavoso: we'd have to do a notice of claim. I might actually have you speak to an environmental attorney that we know very well. They have more expertise in that particular field. I can set that up; that wouldn't be a problem. The suit has to be brought up within 4 months of the action being taken. That would be within 4 months from Thursday vote. Carol Gallagher is the environmental attorney.

Chris Furman: Village & town of Goshen originally were gonna sell the water to Amy's kitchen then Destefano made the proposition of selling the water and took it away from the village. People in Goshen are upset with that. Destefano has made it publicly clear that they are gonna be in the business of selling water in the future. I don't see where the C/O Middletown should be profiting off of us. A lot of wells will probably run dry from that if they are in that aquifer. 70' isn't much for some of those wells. I don't understand why we should do it. I know there's 2 aquifers when I spoke to the geologist. We should make a move and go after them. They are also supplying the water and sewer for the electric plant. Supervisor: they're charging them for everything. Where you do municipal water in you do get the money on the sewer on the way out. The county wants certain business - I believe it's the 1st 300,000 gallons out of the 1st million is basically free. k. The county wants the 17M corridor to have water flow there. Middletown will do the work and the county is going to big business and say we'll get you the water for 'x' amount for 100 gallons it's this much for 100 gallons because the 1st 300,000 gallons is free. Furman: I know for a fact that the people in Goshen were banking on the fact that they would be able to take their water and expand on their water. Joe has already expanded into Wawayanda. He read about Legoland. 85% is gonna be recycled water back into their systems. They still have to pull a large volume of water. He thinks they should file an Article 78. .

Mary Maurizzio: see attached letter.

Lou Dodd: Everyone here on the town board, I agree with Mrs. Maurizzio, was elected. Janet was re-elected. I dare to say if she's interested in running again would probably get re-elected. She stands by her opinions and what she believes in. Everyone remembers that I congratulated Otisville Fire Company for winning the contract. Next thing I'd like to ask is that if we could please stop with a gentleman that I didn't agree with all the time & had arguments with him - but I always knew he would come if I needed him. That's Bill Novak. If we could stop talking about him - god rest his soul, that'd make me happy. That's disrespectful. He's not here to defend himself. Janet is. Ed Fairweather is. Lou Dodd is, Paul Barth is. If we could stop that - he'd like that. Whether you liked him, disagreed with him, didn't respect him - the man is not here anymore.

Frank Ketcham: You always said the board would not make the decision on the school and neither would the old school committee that it would be a vote of the people. Supervisor: that's what I always thought I was able to do until I was corrected by David. That's why I am going with this option. Ketcham: which is fine but tonight you keep saying it's your opinion that you'd like to go with the one that wins the poll but you didn't know what the rest of the board - I'd like to ask the board, are you still considering putting it up for a referendum. Whatever wins the poll I guess is the way...Cambareri: either way it's gonna have to go to a referendum. Supervisor: it doesn't have to. Cambareri: it doesn't have to but that's our intention. Supervisor: I think he's asking is that your intention. Cambareri: yes, why not. Sutherland: I would have like to have seen this be a vote in the polls like this with more information. I would have done this differently. Carey: yes. Howell: yes.

Barbara Lewis: do you have to do a vote and motion for the article 78? Does it have to be put into the minutes? Bavoso: not yet. I'd like to have them talk to the attorney I have in mind for them to talk to. Lewis: perhaps at the next meeting? Bavoso: yes. Lewis: should we check back with you Mr. Volpe? Supervisor: yes that's fine. I can't do the action without the board and we can't do anything until the county does something wrong. Sutherland: we can't do anything until Thursday? Supervisor: right. Mrs. Lewis asked Dean about trash days. Can we bring construction and demolition debris? Hassenmayer: yes.

Ken Pinkela: asked for an update with Time Warner. Bavoso: we have the franchise agreement agreed. They didn't want to put it up for public hearing yet because they are working with their engineers to see if they can get expanded coverage in the town. I hope to have something in the next few weeks.

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Kathie Yedziniak: asked about the master plan meetings. Supervisor: they will be posted on the website. Bavoso: Oct. 27 is the next one here at 5pm. Yedziniak: asked about the \$11,000 budget transfer. Supervisor: the way the state works is they give you a PO. They won't actually give you the money until you spend it. Yedziniak: when was the last time, you already got the grant for that, they're saying yes you're gonna get the money, when's the last time they did that? Supervisor: did what? Yedziniak: she questioned grant money for the pool house. Supervisor explained different grants. The grant for pool building, we've got zero, John Bonacic \$130,000, Aileen Gunther \$100,000 have not come through. They send you a packet every few months, you fill it out with the same info they asked for prior to that, you send it back and we're still waiting. Yedziniak: you have a promise of \$230,000, you still haven't seen the money but it's already been spent. Supervisor: this won't be the same. It's not apples to apples.

Chris Furman: Should we reach out to Bonacic, Gunther about Indigot Creek? Supervisor: it wouldn't hurt.

Brendan Connor: he thanked the board for putting the meetings online. He has big concerns about the fire department. He heard concerns on apparatus/equipment and manpower. He's hung up on the manpower.

Some of the figures in the article (not sure if they are correct or not) I don't know if the board knows. There are 26 members but reference 9 active. He asked if someone could clarify if that's true. Mayor Wona: all 26 members are active. Connor: how many are interior certified? Wona: 10. Connor: and of those, how many are certified to drive the apparatus? K. Coppola: the majority - 6 may not be. 20 out of the 26 are certified to drive the apparatus. Connor: my concern would be that we have a limited number of certified firefighters between driving the apparatus - if there's a 3 alarm fire and 3 trucks go to the fire & 3 guys have to man an apparatus - how many guys are left to participate if everybody gets up and does what they have to do right away? The numbers are scary. I was a member of Wawayanda fire company for my high school years and a couple years in college. We had 85 members over there. We had 30-40 guys regularly active at drills. Of the 20 that we are talking about, if that's the accurate #, I'd like to think that # can be verified. Sutherland: I would encourage you to view the fire bids. You can FOIL that information. Connor: we have to FOIL that information? Is that readily available? Sutherland: we can talk after. Mayor: if you believe everything in the article. Connor: I don't. Mayor: the record didn't even ask the village; they didn't certify anything. They just went on what people were saying. There was a Tom Sley. They stated that he FOIL'd the bid and that he looked through and there was 2 apparatus that were active. The ladder truck was being serviced at the time so we had 3 apparatus. All the proper credentials for them. Connor: that's the apparatus. Wona: the whole article is a one sided opinion. The record didn't do their fact finding. Whether to validate what was being said or not said. It was basically an opinionated article that the record... Connor: my concern, again, apparatus can be fixed, new gear can be purchased, certifications can be made; I'm worried about the manpower. I'm curious where we go from here. I heard maybe there would be an inspection prior to your December meeting. Is that how everything is going to proceed from here? Supervisor: I plan on getting weekly or depending on how often the fire company meets, I'll get updates on new members, apparatus, certifications. Connor: new members? Obviously we can't count on members joining. Supervisor: we can't. but at the time of the bid opening, the board at least 4 of us, was satisfied with the members that was submitted. Connor: I don't know anything about 3 years ago. It seems to me that there's an awful lot of politics coming out of this conversation. Politics shouldn't be a part of this, in my opinion. Supervisor: any other questions for the board? Connor: yes, as far as the bid analysis, what other criteria was taken into account? It was my understanding there's I believe an ISO rating that's done for fire departments. Is that a criteria that was looked at as a part of the bid? Supervisor: that was not put into the bid package. Mayor: before the split it was a 6-9. Mount Hope was incorporated into that because we have a water system in the village of Otisville. Once the split, I don't know what the ISO rating is for Mount Hope. Once you go over a 10, your insurance goes up. Connor: that's what I'm getting at. I don't think it's fair to look at prior to the split because 1 of the factors taken into consideration of the ISO rating is the active members in the department. Now you have a scenario where all those members that contributed to the prior ISO rating are not a part of that anymore. Mayor: we are waiting for our next ISO rating. Connor: but the board - so the answer to my question is that it wasn't taken into consideration. L. Dodd: can anybody come view the bid documents without paying to FOIL it? Town Clerk: it's free to view them. Any copies are .25 cents a page. Dodd: anybody is free to come here and view them without purchasing. Connor: ok I haven't seen the bid documents myself. I'll do that.

Ken Coppola: We had a social member that came back active tonight and we did approve a couple more new members. My thing, and I should have said something at the last meeting, because these people's concerns are coming up now - where were they 3 years ago when the fire company was given the contract with nothing, no trucks, couldn't prove the membership, nobody worried about that. But all of a sudden everybody is worried about Otisville. The lady is worried about the school - they didn't even have a tower truck when they got the contract. Where was she 3 years ago? I'm just asking. Put your mind at ease. We did it before, we're gonna do it again. We do have some other new members coming before the 1st of the year. Hopefully, the concerns will stop. This is crazy. We didn't do that when it went the other way. We didn't come crying at every meeting and that. About this truck and that truck and the article that was in the paper, I want to ask Janet, was that written before the last meeting? Sutherland: no. Coppola: you weren't at the last meeting? Sutherland: last board meeting. Coppola: when it was addressed by the chief about the overweight that was taken care of 2 years ago by the state police. Sutherland: I didn't comment about anything being overweight. I did not comment about the overweight in the article.

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Coppola: in the article you did. Sutherland: no I didn't it was Mr. Selg. Coppola: and the tower truck. I commented on that. I asked you when the contract starts. And it would be ready by then. So you told ½ truths. You're a true politician.

Robert Wilson: nothing wrong with the fire company. Otisville's been here forever. That article that Janet had with the record, did not contact the fire company to have the other side put in there. It was all her side. She inflamed the village more by putting 1 sided article in the paper. When they interviewed you, you could have said let me get somebody from the fire company to talk to – to have their side at the same time. Sutherland: Mr. Wilson, how do you know that I didn't do that? Wilson: because it wasn't in the paper. Sutherland: and that's my decision as to what goes in the paper? The person, any reporter has an opportunity to reach out and get both sides of the story. (inaudible) The woman from the Epoch Times has been more than diligent reaching out, if I'm not mistaken, to numerous parties to get....This woman reached out to me. I spoke with her. What she chooses to print or who she chooses to reach out to or how she verifies her facts is not my doing. Wilson, how come as a council person say, you got my opinion, would you mind if I get a hold of them. Sutherland: how do you know that I didn't do that sir? Wilson: because a board member was the only thing that was in that whole article. That was it.

AT THIS TIME, Councilman Howell asked the attorney if any of the Indigot Creek be subject to review by our planning or zoning board? Bavoso: no I don't see how it would. Howell: if the wells or infrastructure were to be built in Mount Hope, would it have to go to planning board like wanting to sub-divide and put a house? Bavoso: I don't think so. Mineral rights is subject to individual ownership. Lou Dodd suggested looking in to that.

RESOLUTION TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION:

MOTION offered by Councilman Howell 2nd by Councilman Carey to enter into executive session at 9:05pm for highway personnel. All in favor: Howell, Carey, Volpe, Sutherland, Cambareri; carried.

RESOLUTION TO RECONVENE REGULAR MEETING:

MOTION offered by Councilman Howell 2nd by Councilman Carey to reconvene regular session at 9:15pm. NO ACTION WAS TAKEN AT THIS EXECUTIVE SESSION. All in favor: Howell, Carey, Volpe, Sutherland, Cambareri; carried.

BOARD COMMENTS:

Councilman Howell asked Atty. Bavoso if the town sent a letter to the county to be presented with this Indigot Creek dealing on the easement, is there any chance it would have any bearing on their decision? Bavoso: I doubt it based upon the Supervisor's experience with it so far. We can write the letter that's fine. Howell: does anyone else feel – I know we've been in talks with Melissa Bonacic, does any feel we should makes our voices heard to the legislative body? I think it's worth sending a letter. Supervisor: I don't know that they'd get the letter by Thursday. We can do it by email. Discussion on where to hand deliver letter. Carey: they meet there, that's not where their offices are.

RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE ATTORNEY TO SEND LETTER

MOTION offered by Councilman Howell 2nd by Councilman Carey authorize the attorney to send a letter on behalf of the town expressing a negative action in the Indigot Creek situation. All in favor: Howell, Carey, Volpe, Sutherland, Cambareri; carried.

Councilman Carey was going to go to the village meeting Thursday but he will go to the Indigot Creek county meeting to hear what happens.

Supervisor Volpe: spoke re: the budget meeting. Town Clerk advise that at the last meeting with the Board of Elections the clerks were told there would be no charge back for next year. Supervisor asked Dean about allowing village people to drop off stuff for trash days and approx. cost. Dean: a couple thousand. It would depend on whether they still do their spring pick up. Supervisor: they do. Cambareri suggested a shared agreement for this.

RESOLUTION FOR ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION offered by Councilman Howell seconded by Councilman Carey to adjourn the meeting at 9:21pm. All in favor: Howell, Carey, Volpe, Sutherland, Cambareri; carried.

The next meeting is scheduled for October 17, 2016 at 7:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen A. Myers, RMO
Town Clerk

These are the facts as I know them, witnessed in many instances and also my opinion. This is a story, but not a fairy tale. Once upon a time, there was a fire company that provided fire protection for the Village of Otisville and the Town of Mount Hope for 87 years. There was never an issue or a question concerning their ability, commitment to volunteer service, the quality of their training and equipment, and their dedication to safety. A reputation upheld for such a very long time. That fire company was and still is Otisville Fire Company.

There came a time period around 2012 – 2013 when a group of Otisville firefighters had some disagreements with other Otisville firefighters. Did they leave and join any other surrounding fire companies? No. Why not? Perhaps, it was a matter of wanting complete control. How could they obtain that? The Town of Mount Hope had unused funds, aka, taxpayers dollars. Maybe the Town would like their name on a fire company too. They approached Supervisor Novak about their idea and he said ok. Did he try to mediate, ask them to discuss and possibly reconcile their differences for the sake of the community? No, he welcomed the renegades. His four council members didn't ask a question, oppose anything or answer a question at any public meetings. Mr. Novak and Town Atty. Kelson did all the talking. Mrs. Janet Sutherland and Mr. Ed Fairweather were members of that town board.

I read the recent newspaper articles. Although I do think Mrs. Sutherland seems like a nice person as an individual, I find Mrs. Sutherland's political positions lacking insight in several areas. Her statements in this matter harsh and offensive. How quickly she forgets. Certain facts should not be forgotten. Why wasn't Mrs. Sutherland "reeling" and speaking up to the newspaper from her council seat when the people of Mount Hope, the taxpayers of Mount Hope filled this room, filled that outer hall way and spilled outside the windows of this building pleading for answers about the soon to be declared fire district, appointed commissioners, and a new fire company. Where was her vocal outcry when again the community center was filled with Town taxpayers asking questions and wanting Mr. Novak and that town board to wait and to explain what was about to happen? Where was her growing concern when Mr. Novak stated that almost 200 people in the community center didn't represent the entire town? I never want to hear that said again. She sat silent, Mr. Fairweather sat silent, absolutely silent to the pleadings of the people they represented. Not even one word of reassurance uttered. They were very negligent.

The prior Town fire contract with Otisville Fire Company was for one year. The Town fire contract with the Mt. Hope Fire Company was for three years. Why? The Mount Hope Fire Company had no equipment what-so-ever, nor any fire house to put equipment in. They apparently had time to get some older, used equipment and work on a barn at a local farm to enable their equipment to be housed, for a fee, and out of the weather. They had Town taxpayer's monies, they applied for grants, and they borrowed money. They would have hand - picked fire commissioners, an expensive outside attorney and a fire district to hand them more taxpayer money. Sweet! Supervisor Novak again acted without taxpayer/voter input and no questions from his councilpersons. He approved a new fire company, appointed fire commissioners and attempted to start a fire district. His board sat silent or in total politically motivated agreement, with an aye vote to everything said.

Not so fast, said the taxpayers. We're going to show you who you were elected to serve and answer to and act in the best interest of. Certain taxpayers, ordinary citizens, put the wheels in motion to force a vote by the people. A fire district was voted down, but the fire company remained. The next election sent a huge message to Supervisor Novak and three out of four of his councilmen. Mrs. Sutherland's seat was saved, the only woman on the board, and besides, her term wasn't up yet. She was re-elected, when her term was up sometime later and she chose to run again. Perhaps people forgot that she was a very silent part of the previous board and its overbearing leader.

Maybe if Mrs. Sutherland went to the Village of Otisville meetings, as is part of her assignment as a councilwoman in the Town, she would have had an opportunity to ask questions about the Otisville Fire Company or hear the chief's report to the village officials. She might have thought 25 fire calls in the Village alone is quite a few, since Otisville Fire Company is currently only used in the Village unless they are called for mutual aid. Speaking of which, I would ask or remind Mrs. Sutherland and others if she and/or they know that each fire

company has options, under a law known as Home Rule, as to what fire company they will call for mutual aid 1st, 2nd, 3rd, etc. Mount Hope Fire Company has Otisville Fire Company at the bottom of their mutual aid call list with Howells as a close second to the bottom. Why? So even if a fire was located in Mount Hope closer to Otisville or Howells, Mount Hope Fire Company could call a company farther away for assistance. Where's the common sense and safety in that decision? I guess Mrs. Sutherland and the only other woman (P.T.O. member and Mount Hope Fire Company Auxiliary member) at the last town meeting with family in the Otisville school building (so they thought) didn't know that ladder trucks are not required in any local municipality. Oh, by the way, if you need to check, Otisville's ladder truck is road ready. They should be allowed this time period to ready themselves for covering both the Town and the Village again. Remember, when Mount Hope Fire Company began with nothing, they had time and new money to gather members and equipment. Mrs. Sutherland should check on what is actually required. As for Mount Hope firemen returning or not to Otisville Fire Company.....is that a threat or a promise? If any want to go back.....their loyalty and calling is to firefighting and saving lives.....isn't it?

Now, as for "gross negligence, stupidity and political pay back", I like to give credit where credit is due. The past, you'll say? I say all still relevant right now and we need to remember. Mrs. Sutherland and Mr. Fairweather while members of the previous board, deserve credit, at least in part for: #1. Gross negligence: by giving away parkland, allowing the "old" Otisville School - treasured by many, to decay and deteriorate for years, allowing the former "pool" building behind the police station to deteriorate for years and become a storage place for junk, allowing the senior center to stay in a state of disrepair in need of proper flooring, paint, proper steps and parking among other things for years, allowing this Town Hall to continue to act as actual housing for the previous supervisor and also permitting this public building to be in a terrible state of uncleanness and disrepair, all -----with monies in the bank. #2. & #3. Stupidity and political pay back; Mrs. Sutherland's question about political pay back in the newspaper article doesn't make sense and indeed makes her appear stupid. There is no political gain in choosing one fire company over the other. It's a matter of facts and figures. Just because the fire company she favored had the rug pulled out from under them.....so to speak.....we all know that feeling.....perhaps she and the members

of the Mount Hope Fire Company are thinking and experiencing what is known in political circles as "sour grapes". They should adjust their thinking and accept a decision by a majority vote.

Lastly, I agree with you on one point, Janet. Shame on you. Shame on you for believing that 4 out of 5 fairly newly elected members of the Town board who have many visible attributes to their credit would repeat the mistakes of the previous board, disregard public input and risk the lives of the entire town, including their own, their families, friends and properties for any reason! I put my faith in this board's 4 out of 5 good judgement in this case, and not in your lack of same, based on the past performance of the Otisville Fire Company and its long standing ability to efficiently and safely cover both Otisville and the Town of Mount Hope.

We all live here.

Angel Maurizzio