

**TOWN OF LEICESTER
WORK BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY OCTOBER 10, 2023
6:00PM**

The Work Meeting of the Leicester Town Board was held on Tuesday, October 10, 2023, at 6:00pm at the Leicester Town Hall located at 132 Main Street, Leicester NY 14481.

Present: David Fanaro, Town Supervisor; Councilmembers, Gerald Hull, Matthew Durbin, Jason Yasso and Karen Roffe; Russell Page, Highway Superintendent

Others: Renee Fanaro, Barry Briffa, Lisa Semmel, Christiano, Rich Neuman, Don Jacobs, John Yasso, Rich White

The meeting opened at 6pm and the Pledge to the Flag was led by Supervisor Fanaro

Old Business:

Continuation of open Public Hearing for Village Fire Agreement: Discussion was opened, the Board was interested in understanding the need for the request for increase in funds.

Councilmember Karen Roffe shared that there was concern about the increase and any amount should be for fire protection. The town shouldn't be responsible for the building.

Barry Briffa, Village Mayor, shared that equipment and cost hasn't stayed the same. He asked the question-What is the percentage of calls that are in the village? John Yasso answered ten percent. Briffa stated that the village kicked in \$10,000 more for the fire department.

Councilmember Karen stated that she understands that was just for the building itself.

Councilmember Jason Yasso stated that he doesn't like the drastic increase. Mayor Briffa stated that 90% of calls are in the township. Councilmember Jason stated that he has sat through a lot of meetings that Mayor Briffa hasn't. If the contract hasn't changed since 2000 then that's poor planning. If the village had asked along the way, the increase may not be as substantial-54% increase.

Mayor Briffa shared that he has been able to balance the budget from the revenue/rent of the school. Yasso stated that we need to look at what we need and what we need is fire protection.

Mayor Briffa stated that he is not worried about 10 years from now, he is worried about now. Councilmember Yasso stated that the village did not prepare for the increase. We need to look to the future. Don Jacobs stated that they have trucks and things because of the money received from the school. "You are worried about our money, why?"

Councilmember Yasso questioned why these public entities are saying we are good right now?

Dave Fanaro, Town Supervisor, stated that our due diligence is to look to the future. Councilmember Yasso said we are not going to suffer public safety.

Supervisor Fanaro shared that the town agreed to enter into a study to see if consolidating would be feasible. Supervisor Fanaro said that Briffa sends the contract with no dialogue, it just gets sent.

Councilmember Yasso asked Briffa if he agrees with it and Briffa states no, he would need to take it back to his board. Supervisor Dave asked Jason, what would you like to do?

John Yasso shared his fire tax had increased, gone up \$75, where does that money go? If collecting money Cuylerville has asked for more money and above their contract, which is illegal. The village board has supported the fire department and has not asked for more because they haven't had to. He agrees though that the village board should better budget. John Yasso shared that he has gotten grants for the little truck that has cost the village and town nothing.

Councilmember Yasso stated that the village shared a spreadsheet that gives information on what a building costs, we want to know what you need to keep the people safe. Communication.

Councilmember Gerald Hull, understands that John Yasso is concerned about the fire tax going up. My position is that I'm looking out for the taxpayers. Not saying you don't need more money, need to represent those who are on a fixed income.

Supervisor Fanaro, shared that this is budget time for us, there is a tax cap, we need to be prepared for an increase.

Don Jacobs wanted to talk about the water increase. Supervisor Fanaro stated several times that we are here to talk about the fire contract.

Supervisor Fanaro, asked the board how they would like to proceed? The board decided to keep the public hearing open. Tentative budget is next Tuesday, we can plug in the \$14,000 and see if it can work in the budget.

Mayor Briffa, stated that he could go out tomorrow and build a brand new fire hall. He has drawings in place to build a brand new fire hall.

Councilmember Yasso, shared that talks just started about the consolidation. Posed the same question and they had the same answer-both departments.

Supervisor Fanaro stated the study is the study-its implementation. He will call directly Tuesday so Barry will have it before the meeting. We will leave the public hearing open.

New Business:

Spectrum Quotes for Phone System: The town hall was solicited by Spectrum to replace phones-town hall & building, cost \$212.50 for town hall, 61.25 for town barn. Lisa Semmel stated if the electric goes out then there are no phones. A Motion was made to accept the quotes and move forward with the new phone system to Town Supervisor by Councilmember Yasso and Seconded by Councilmember Roffe.

Motion carried. Ayes 4, Noes 0.

Resolution to Authorize Court Grant: Annual request from the Court Clerk to authorize to apply for Court Grant.

A motion was made to accept the Court Clerk to apply for the Court Grant to Town Supervisor by Councilmember Yasso and Seconded by Councilmember Durbin.

Motion carried. Ayes 4, Noes 0.

Town Hall Quote for Shades for rest of Building: shades for front window/additional shades for security.

Abstract of Claims for Prepays \$32, 811.87:

A Motion was made to approve the Pre-Paid Abstract of Claims by Councilmember Roffe and Seconded by Councilmember Hull.

Motion carried. Ayes 4, Noes 0.

Close Public Hearing for Fire Contract: Not closing

Supervisors Subjects: Supervisor Fanaro stated that Highbanks Solar is asking for an extension from the owner. Whitecreek is moving forward, pushing hard for PILOT, Jerry Deming, York Town Supervisor and myself want to make sure community credit is local.

Executive Session:

A Motion was made to enter Executive Session at 6:40pm by Councilmember Hull and Seconded by Councilmember Durbin. Motion carried. Ayes 4, Noes 0.

Out of Executive Session at 8:05pm. A Motion made to exit Executive Session by Councilmember Roffe and Seconded by Councilmember Yasso. No action taken.

Adjournment: A Motion was made by Councilmember Yasso and Seconded by Councilmember Roffe at 8:06pm.

Submitted by
Renee Fanaro to Town Clerk
Amy Neumann in her absence.