

PATTERSON TOWN BOARD MEETING
PUBLIC HEARING

FIRE DEPARTMENT 2016 CONTRACTS
PATTERSON TOWN HALL
1142 ROUTE 311
PATTERSON, NY 12563

APRIL 27, 2016

MINUTES

PRESENT: RICHARD WILLIAMS, SR., SUPERVISOR
KEVIN BURNS, COUNCILMAN
CHARLES W. COOK, COUNCILMAN
SHAWN ROGAN, COUNCILMAN
EILEEN CORBLEY, DEPUTY TOWN CLERK
MICHAEL LIGUORI, TOWN COUNSEL

ABSENT: PETER DANDREANO, DEPUTY SUPERVISOR

Salute to the Flag and Roll Call.

Supervisor Williams called the Public Hearing to order at 7:00 p.m. with 20 in attendance.

Mr. Liguori, Town Counsel read the Public Hearing Notice:

SEE ATTACHED LEGAL NOTICE

Mr. Williams stated does anyone have any questions on the contract.

Ms. Eleanor Smith, President Patterson Fire Department stated I know that we are still in negotiations with our contract. There are a couple of things that are going to be changed. I don't know if Mike spoke to Dave.

Mr. Michael Liguori, Town Counsel stated not today. Yesterday, I spoke to him and he detailed the proposed revisions and then followed up with an email, which I forwarded, so the Board has all of the comments from Dave.

Ms. Smith stated when the contract gets approved tonight, then we make changes, do we come back again, how does that work.

Mr. Liguori stated the Board will discuss the comments and we will continue to negotiate with the fire department, unless the Board decides to do something different.

Mr. Burns stated we do have an email with the proposed changes. We might discuss that in Executive Session.

Ms. Smith stated my concern was the percentages. That is the part, I think, we need to negotiate. I would like to discuss the amount of our budget. We were never told that our budget was reduced. We should have been called in. We were confused when we saw the amount. It is because of our vehicle replacement schedule.

Mr. Williams stated last year there was an issue with the ambulance and how we were going to go forward with providing ambulance service. The budget was submitted on August 31st and there were issues the Town was trying to wrestle with. What they did, they put in the budget that was substantially less than what you actually asked for. The Preliminary Budget the Board had the Public Hearing on was \$711,000.00, substantially less than what you asked for. That was based on a nine month calendar not twelve. They realized at that point, the Patterson Fire Department was not willing to change from a fiscal year to a calendar year, so they had to adjust the budget.

Ms. Smith stated it wasn't that we weren't willing, there was no communication.

Mr. Liguori stated no, we had a lot of discussions regarding changing from fiscal to calendar year. I was part of that with Dave. The conclusion was that it would take time for that to be implemented and it wouldn't be done before 2017.

Ms. Smith stated and you couldn't collect twelve months of taxes (inaudible).

Mr. Liguori stated there is a major misconception about what the Town can collect and what the Town pays by contract. We can collect "X" amount of money by tax levy and negotiate something different with the fire departments. It was not going to be feasible for the department to switch its calendar year.

Ms. Smith stated it's too late now. Things have taken so long.

Mr. Williams stated this is what the Town did; they fully funded what you put in for your operational budget, \$565,000.00. It fully funded the replacement value of the cascade, 100 Year Celebration, and another \$500.00 for tool replacement. Trish took all the information you provided her and projected that out and did a calculation on what the annual cost would be for you to set aside for vehicle replacement. They gave you all of that, except for one item. In that vehicle replacement schedule, the fire department included two ambulances. They took out the second ambulance and that is where the \$23,000.00 came from.

Ms. Smith stated I don't think that is correct.

Mr. Williams stated yes, it is correct.

Ms. Smith stated why would you take out one ambulance if we had two.

Mr. Williams stated because at the time the fire department was getting out of the ambulance business. You have been phenomenal about stepping up and helping us keep the cost down.

Ms. Smith stated we never said we were going out of the ambulance business. That was Putnam Lake.

Mr. Williams stated no, I was at the meetings in March when everyone was getting out of the ambulance service.

Ms. Smith stated we will talk to Trish about that. She just took it out without telling us.

Mr. Williams stated I'm not saying it was the right thing to do.

Ms. Smith stated I want to have open dialogue, instead of you just doing things and we find out months later. Thank you.

Mr. Williams stated right now we are wrestling with how we are going to do ambulance service in the Town. The fire department and the Town are working on proposals. If you need that \$23,000.00, because you need more turnout gear or whatever, I'll be happy to have that conversation with you and we will talk about putting that money back in.

Ms. Smith stated I appreciate that.

Mr. Williams stated but putting that money back in for a replacement for an ambulance, we will hold off until we make a final decision.

Ms. Smith stated the schedule that I attached was not the updated one. I have an updated one with the real numbers on it.

Mr. Williams stated great.

Mr. Rogan stated are the real numbers higher or lower.

Ms. Smith stated they are the same, but some of the replacement dates were incorrect. The biggest issue is the percentages. I would really like the board to commit to the seventy-five.

Mr. Williams stated we have the email from Dave. We will talk about it in Executive Session, if you want to stay.

Ms. Smith stated I do.

Mr. Cook made a **motion** to close the Public Hearing at 7:15 p.m.

Seconded by Mr. Burns. All In Favor: Aye. Carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

ANTOINETTE KOPECK, Town Clerk