

TOWN OF CONSTANTIA
MINUTES - TOWN BOARD-BUDGET WORKSHOP –9 am – October 18, 2012
Constantia Town Hall

Present: Charles Gilkey - Supervisor
Richard Colesante and John Metzger - Council Members
Clare Haynes - Town Clerk
Nancy Butler - Supervisor's Clerk
Wayne Woolridge - Highway Superintendent
Kathleen LaVigne - North Shore Ambulance
Michael Montgomery - SOVAC Ambulance

Absent: Thomas Moran and Frank Tomaino- Council Members

CALL TO ORDER:

At 9:00 am Mr. Gilkey called the budget workshop to order with the pledge of allegiance.

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this meeting is to discuss ambulance concerns and to review the proposed 2013 budget.

DISCUSSION:

Mrs. LaVigne and Mr. Montgomery were asked to come to the meeting to answer some questions about both ambulance operations. It was originally thought that Mrs. LaVigne would be forced to retire her position at North Shore Ambulance once she hit a certain age. This is not true, they at North Shore are working on a plan where someone else could step in if Mrs. LaVigne could no longer perform her duties. This answers a lot of questions and eases a lot of concerns for the board. They thought that someone would have to be hired for this position which could greatly impact the budget.

Mr. Colesante thanked Mrs. LaVigne on for their efforts in keeping their budget requests down. A big concern for the board was the hiring of a director or business director for the ambulance. Mrs. LaVigne said that a few of their budget lines are to the point that they are almost funded, so that money can be redirected when needed for personnel.

When asked if there are benefits with working together, the answer was yes, but they are both 501C3's, both have their own board of directors and bylaws, so they have to work within those parameters. At the present time North Shore and SOVAC do work well together. They help each other out with staffing, both with ambulances and personnel. They hope to also start purchasing items together after the first of the year.

The question of joint certificate of need was discussed, this is used mainly when there is a problem and no resources. Currently SOVAC and North Shore work together so if one company needs an ambulance or personnel at a particular station, they can do it because of mutual aid. Using both ambulance corps to obtain the resources, this benefits everyone in the community involved.

Mr. Gilkey asked if the county should be approaching the ambulance situation at their level. It would be nice to get a study to see where the county could help. At the present time, Oswego has passed within a bill that they will no longer be paying the Workman's Comp for ambulance volunteers. They have always paid this in the past, they are keeping volunteer firemen, but dropping volunteer ambulance members. Both departments are now getting estimates for this. This is a costly bill to drop into the lap of the ambulance.

When one township pays \$254,000 for ambulance service, the onus is on the town board to ask questions. That is why working together is helpful, to have open communications, hopefully will have another meeting in six months or so to see how everything is going.

At 10:20 am the town board members thanked Mrs. LaVigne and Mr. Montgomery for attending and answering many questions.

BUDGET:

Mr. Metzger would like to set up a special reserve account for audits, that way yearly the board can budget money to be put into that account so when needed an outside auditor can come in to do the audit.

SF2-3410.4 Contract with Constantia Fire District #1 change to \$86,760
SF2-3410.4 Contract with village of Cleveland change to \$86,760

Ms. Butler will add the line item for external audit, any net difference to reach the tax cap amount should be put into the Audit budget line.

ADJOURN:

At 11:18 am the meeting adjourned.