

TOWN OF CON.STANTIA
MINUTES - TOWN BOARD-SPECIAL MEETING - BUDGET-7 PM – October 16, 2014
Constantia Town Hall

Present: Charles Gilkey - Supervisor
Richard Colesante, John Metzger, Thomas Moran - Council Members
Clare Haynes - Town Clerk
Wayne Woolridge - Highway Superintendent
Nancy Butler - Bookkeeper to the Supervisor

Others Present: Mark Demma - North Shore Volunteer Ambulance
Lyle Robbins - North Shore Volunteer Ambulance

Absent: Chad Whitney - Council Member

CALL TO ORDER:

At 7:00 pm Mr. Gilkey called the budget workshop to order with the pledge of allegiance.

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the 2015 budget. Representatives are in attendance from North Shore Volunteer Ambulance to answer any questions the board might have on their budget.

AMBULANCE:

Mr. Demma gave the board a copy of their 2015 budget, this included no increase. A significant change is the increase in Multi-Med billing. This is the company that is used to bill patients, North Shore Ambulance has made improvements in how they collect information from the patient at time of service, and how they then transmit this information which increases the percentage they are reimbursed from Multi-Med. North Shore Ambulance is at a 79% reimbursement this is up from around 40% 7 years ago. North Shore Ambulance is currently looking into purchasing electronic equipment to help increase this percentage.

Worker's Compensation continues to be an issue, budgeted \$2,500 for 2014 when actual was \$21,241, they increased the 2015 budget to \$23,250 to make sure there is enough to cover for 2015.

North Shore Ambulance will be increasing their rates, after speaking to Multi-Med Mr. Demma will be bringing to their board new max reimbursement rates. The new rates are listed in the 2015 Budget. These rates are in line with what some insurance carriers will cover for services.

North Shore Ambulance has ordered a new ambulance which is a state of the art large ambulance. Mr. Metzger asked if there was a consideration to purchase a smaller ambulance. Mr. Demma does not feel it would work for them, this ambulance is safer for the crew. Mr. Metzger asked if there has even been a cost comparison done between the small vs big ambulance. Yes, the actual ambulance is cheaper by about \$100,000 but not everyone is pleased with the new style that SOVAC purchased. Mr. Metzger thinks this is something to look at for the second ambulance.

A few years ago when a budget was presented it was suggested that there would be an increase to offset the hiring of an Operations Manager/Business Director. Mr. Colesante questioned where the money for this is coming from now that Mr. Robbins has been hired for this position and an increase was not asked for. Mr. Demma stated that the money is coming from the increase in fees and another ambulance will not be purchased for 7 years.

Mr. Metzger asked where either Mr. Demma or Mr. Robbins sees where North Shore ambulance will be in 5 years. Mr. Robbins would like to see both ambulances staffed so no calls get sent to other agencies. Mr. Robbins thinks that North Shore Ambulance could also benefit from the Para-Medicine concept that is currently being discussed in Albany. This is where ambulance personal would be doing home visits, being reimbursed by the area hospitals. New concept not approved yet.

Mr. Moran asked if either Mr. Demma or Mr. Robbins sees a reduction in the town of Constantia's contribution, only if the revenues increase. Mr. Moran asked if a report could be given that compares the calls for the town of Vienna vs the town of Constantia. Mr. Robbins would get one to the board as soon as possible.

The board thanked both Mr. Demma and Mr. Robbins for coming to the meeting.

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting is scheduled for October 23, 2014.

ADJOURN:

At 9:00 pm the meeting adjourned.