

Special Meeting Minutes held by the Town Board of the Town of LaFayette on October 16, 2002 in the LaFayette Commons Office Building on Route 11 in the Town of LaFayette.

Present: Gregory Scammell, Supervisor
Norman Paul, Councilor
Sandra Smith, Councilor
David Knapp, Councilor
Thomas Bailey, Councilor

Recording Secretary: Mary Jo Kelly, Town Clerk

Others Present: Tom Chartrand, Bookkeeper
Leon Cook, Highway Superintendent

Supervisor Scammell called the Special Meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.

Leon said he came because Councilor Paul called him and there was a question on the \$17,000 in contractual so he came in case there was any questions on this. This is for the Highway Garage. The reason he added \$1,000 here is because of fuel prices going up from 74 cents to 98 cents for heating oil. Ron Bush is charging his customers \$1.06.

Supervisor Scammell asked if we get this off the state bid.

Leon said yes.

Supervisor Scammell asked how much that is.

Leon said they put a bid in for the price of oil but if it goes up, they can add to it.

Supervisor Scammell asked what the bid is.

Leon said he's not sure what it started out as. It fluctuates. If the price of oil goes up, our cost goes up. If the price goes down, ours goes down. If oil prices go up too high, everything else has a surcharge on it.

Councilor Knapp said they asked because it was going along at a steady rate until this year.

Tom C. said Leon said he might have some furnaces coming up for replacement.

Leon said hopefully not this year.

Tom said they have spent \$6,000 this year so far.

Leon said the newest furnace they got was installed in 1995.

Councilor Knapp asked how many he has.

Leon said two. One in each part. They run a lot because the doors are open with the trucks going in and out. When you bring the trucks in at the end of the day, they are cold and that brings the temperature down too.

Supervisor Scammell asked if we are at a high increase in the general fund.

Tom said yes. Right now we are at a high percentage.

Councilor Paul asked if Leon could live with \$1,000 less in that area.

Leon thinks he would be O.K.

Tom said he wouldn't go any lower than \$15,000 in case there is a problem with a furnace. He said the Board was also interested in which roads he would be paving.

Leon said it could change. He listed some of the roads he is planning on working on such as: Amidon, Bella Vista, Bush, Chase, Colton, Drumm, Groth, Maple Grove,

McClarey, Newell Hill, Nichols, O'Connell, Ortloff, Walburger and possibly something on Hallinan Road.

Councilor Knapp asked if this is oiling and stoning.

Leon said yes.

Supervisor Scammell asked what else he would be doing on Hallinan Road.

Leon said not too much unless they build up there.

Supervisor Scammell said suppose they do.

Leon said we have to do some guardrails. He would like to put one shot of oil on. For oiling and stoning, it's up to \$6,324 per mile. That is about ½ mile so it would be about \$3,000. That would come out of the 7 ½ miles he is proposing.

Councilor Paul asked when the last time they did anything on the roads he mentioned.

Leon said about 3 years ago.

Councilor Paul asked if that was for all of them.

Leon said no. These roads are the ones that have started to get hairline cracks in them. You have to keep after them.

Tom said the numbers are – 1 cent in the general fund, - 3 cents in the library and + 3 cents over what the Board has control over.

Supervisor Scammell said the Board is done reviewing the Library, Community Council, the Highway and the General Fund. We are down to the Fire Department.

Supervisor Scammell said the LFD said the trucks have to be replaced every 20 years due to OSHA. We are under budget constraints like everyone and can understand this if there is a safety reason or things wearing out. Is this a particular OSHA regulation or another organizations regulation?

The Board couldn't find anything stating OSHA required vehicle replacement every 20 years.

Councilor Bailey said he spoke to a high-ranking source in the City Fire Department who concurred with the Board's findings from OSHA. For the water carrying apparatus there is an annual pump test which must be done. The Syracuse Fire Dept. does their own testing. They can farm this out to a private company to do too. In regards to the vehicles, it's up to the department to keep the apparatus up to par with the state safety standards. There is no shelf-life of 20 years.

The Board noted in their findings there is information on fire-fighting equipment that the department should have inspected annually to ensure the safe operation of the equipment. Records of the testing should be maintained.

Supervisor Scammell said they do have a lot of money budgeted for maintenance. He asked when the fire department was inspected if there were any major or minor violations.

No one knew.

Councilor Knapp said with all the work Tom Rezsnyak and Councilor Smith have done, the inspections went very well.

Councilor Bailey said the Syracuse Fire Dept. has a spare rescue that is well over 20 years old. They had an incident about 5-6 years ago where a newer model rescue tipped over on James St. so they had to use the spare. There's apparatus they use that does exist over 20 years.

Councilor Knapp asked over all where we are at right now with the budget.

Tom said it's at a 3.38 % increase. About \$20 on a 100,000 house. He said the Board needs to keep in mind, people will see a trash bill included in their tax bills if the trash district is passed. The county is showing an increase too.

Councilor Smith asked where the bills are mailed from.

Mary Jo said from the Town Office.

Councilor Smith recommended putting a reminder in with the bills noting the trash bill is included if it passes.

Councilor Knapp said next Thursday, the 29th, there will be a trash district informational meeting at 7:00 in the Meeting Room of the LaFayette Commons Office Building. He will be putting some fliers up. There will be a mailing going out in 2-3 days.

Tom said the Board talked about bringing back the major groups they were planning on cutting.

Supervisor Scammell said he talked about this. He didn't think anyone was interested in negotiating this.

Councilor Knapp said we have written the LFD and said we would like to discuss this further. They haven't gotten back to us yet.

Supervisor Scammell doesn't know if once the Board arrives at a number, they are planning on changing it. He can send a letter from the Town Supervisor to each of the departments stating their new numbers. He can say this is the agreement the Board came up with. He can send it certified mail. It really isn't subject to negotiations.

Councilor Knapp said it's justification when the Board gives them all the time they need to present their budgets. This is above what our neighboring towns do.

Tom said it's above what the county does.

Supervisor Scammell said they feel if they ask for 100 and get 97, there's a side of them that goes back to their constituents and says they didn't get what they asked for. He thinks the Board does ask questions of them and give them an opportunity to present their budgets.

Councilor Knapp said they are looking at one piece of the puzzle and the Board must look at the whole puzzle. He doesn't think the Board dipped into any one worse than another. When you look at the things the county is closing like the DARE Program, etc., he thinks we are doing very well as a town.

The LFD budget was discussed.

Councilor Knapp said it's over a 5% increase.

Tom noted the rest of the budget was decreased 3%. He said the Service Award Program is \$30,000 and Workers Compensation is \$25,500. \$24,000 of that is estimated for what the normal fire department cost will be. The other \$1,500 is what they told him their payroll would be and based on the number he got from PERMA. He said the ambulance is supported through the Workers Compensation.

The Board was in agreement to make the Capital Reserve \$100,000. This would make their total budget \$263,500. \$4,000 was kept in for accounting. This gives them an increase of \$5,000 over what they were given last year. He said it's a 2.7% increase.

Councilor Knapp said the library went down, the Highway stayed the same, Community Council went up by 2%.

Supervisor Scammell said \$323,000 would be the total expenditures including the Service Awards and Workers Compensation. He noted this is more than the Board increased anyone else and have cut others.

Jamesville Fire District was discussed. It was recommended to give them a 2.7% increase like the LFD. It was decided to go to 3% for Jamesville Fire District.

Tom said it would be \$29,840 for Jamesville now.

Supervisor Scammell asked Tom if he was comfortable with the level of where we are at regarding the Contingency. We have cut a lot out.

Tom said we didn't play with the revenues which he was very conservative on. Mortgage tax he was very conservative on too.

Councilor Knapp asked if we can access the tax stabilization money during the year.

Tom said no. You might be able to have a permissive referendum.

Councilor Knapp asked where we are right now.

Tom said there is a contingency of \$8,000 under buildings, \$5,000 of that is Marshall's grant. There's a contingency of \$10,000 which has no specific purpose.

Councilor Knapp asked where we are at regarding the tax rate with the changes the Board has made.

Tom said one cent increase. 18% increase.

Councilor Knapp said one thing we haven't talked about recently is what we are going to do with the whole legal fees.

There was discussion about adding some extra money to the general contingency in case an emergency should happen.

Tom said if you add \$10,000 to the general contingency, it will bring you up to an even 1% increase.

Councilor Knapp will discuss the Developer Fees with Kevin Gilligan.

Councilor Paul said he's getting complaints about these fees too.

Tom said the Board is at a \$6.00 per 100,000 home increase. The total percentage rate is 1.07%.

Councilor's Knapp moved and Smith seconded the motion for the Town Board to go into Executive Session to discuss a specific personnel matter. Motion passed unanimously.

The Town Board went into Executive Session at 8:30 p.m. and the Special Town Board Meeting was called back to order by Supervisor Scammell at 9:20 p.m.

The Board decided to hold another Special Town Board Meeting at 6:00 p.m. on October 21, 2002.

Councilor's Paul moved and Knapp seconded the motion to adjourn. Motion passed unanimously.

The Special Town Board Meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Jo Kelly
Town Clerk