

Town of Oneonta Fire District
Meeting Minutes – Regular Meeting
January 10, 2017

Attendance: Michael Butler, Eugene Molinari, Johna Peachin, Fernando Volpe
Absent: Donald Lamana

Members of the Public: Ron Peters, Bonnie Molinari, Town Councilwoman Trish Riddell Kent, Steve Kent, Virginia Lee

Mr. Butler called the regular meeting to order at 6:04 PM.

Mr. Volpe made a motion to accept the December 2016 minutes. Mr. Peachin seconded the motion. Passed 4-0.

Mr. Butler asked Ms. LaBuz to give the Treasurer's Report. Ms. LaBuz summarized the balances in the money market and checking accounts and the payments that were due – The Daily Star for a legal notice. Ms. Peachin made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report and approve the monthly bills. Mr. Molinari seconded the motion. Passed 4-0.

Task Force: Ms. Peachin reported that the consultant has issued his report. The recommendation is that the fire district pay 34% of the net budget. She stated that the report was not clear or focused. Interpretations varied between the commissioners and the mayor. The work of the task force is now complete. The report will become part of the public file. Ms. Peachin said that the report contains misinformation. It is only the second time the consultant was involved in this type of task. Ms. Riddell-Kent had questions about the report. Ms. Peachin said that she would review the report with her.

New Business: A committee to study the formation of a volunteer fire department is necessary. The commissioners were advised that a bunk-in program is not feasible because there are too few calls. We will reach out to the colleges to ask about the enrollment of fully trained volunteer fire fighters. We will also need to work with a certified fire department such as West Oneonta or Pindars Corners. This will result in a faster approval rating.

There was discussion about Mayor Herzig's press release in which he stated that the City would have to cut its department if the Fire District no longer contracts for fire protection from the City. Ms. Peachin asked for clarification on whether a six-man crew was mandated. Mr. Molinari explained the process of how many go out on a call. There is a national standard of a five man crew. It can be done but is not as safe and more challenging for the fire fighters. Mr. Molinari commented that if the City is so concerned about losing the fire contract, why are they not making more of an effort to work with the fire district.

Mr. Butler will chair the committee on forming a fire department. Mr. Molinari and Mr. Volpe will serve on the committee.

A town wide interest meeting will be scheduled after the regular meeting in February.

Mr. Butler asked if anyone heard any comments on the amount on their tax bill for fire protection. No one received any comment or complaint.

Ms. Peachin made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Volpe seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 6:34 PM.

Respectively submitted,

Erica N. LaBuz
Secretary

