

TOWN OF SAND LAKE
TOWN BOARD WORKSHOP MEETING
September 30, 2020

A meeting of the Sand Lake Town Board was held on September 30, 2020 at 7:00 P.M. at the Sand Lake Town Hall. After the Pledge of Allegiance, the following answered roll call:

PRESENT: Councilman Bulmer
Councilwoman Erickson
Councilman Film
Councilman Nippes
Supervisor Perry
Town Attorney Ely

RECORDING SECRETARY: Barbara Hansen, Town Clerk

ALSO PRESENT: Brian Hunt

OTHERS PRESENT: See attached sign in sheet

CALL TO ORDER: Supervisor Perry opened the meeting at 7:00 P.M.

Supervisor Perry opened the meeting with her Budget Address. The General Overview of the proposed budget was a 0% increase for next year. Salaries of Town employees, both union and non-union, will remain the same. The Board is delighted that the union employees voluntarily gave up a raise that was contractually agreed upon. There is a mutual respect between the Public Works Department and the Town Board. The stipends of all other Town Boards, including Planning and Zoning Board of Appeals, will remain the same as in 2020. The Board thanked Comptroller Maegan Wait for her hard work and diligence in putting this Budget together. Please visit the Town website for a full text of Supervisor Perry's address.

Ambulance: Barry Russell addressed the Board and explained that the Ambulance is not a department of the Town, but essentially a contractor. The Ambulance worked very hard to hold funding at 2020 levels but there are many reasons why this was not possible. Revenue from transporting residents is down significantly and they are losing volunteers who are then replaced with paid EMTs and ParaMedics. This is necessary so the ambulance can continue to give the best care possible.

Bob Stackrow, volunteer Treasurer for the Sand Lake Ambulance addressed the Board and explained the financial shortfalls the Ambulance is facing due to payroll increases because of a loss of volunteers. To ensure the Town has a fully staffed Advanced Life Support (ALS) staff for calls will require an increase in the payroll. ALS service is staffed with trained ParaMedics while Basic Life Support (BLS) is staffed with EMT's. We tried hard to cut expenses but increases outweigh our cutbacks. He explained that to continue to provide first class (ALS) Ambulance Service an increase is inevitable. The creation of an Ambulance District would take the funding out of the General Fund and result in a line item on tax bills. This would enable the public to see exactly how much this first class service would cost. Mr. Stackrow also noted that the

Ambulance has a reserve fund for big ticket items and understands the difficulty the Town has in trying to stay under the 2% tax cap while increasing necessary funding.

Malcolm McPherson, a resident, an attorney, Chairman of the Ambulance Board and a volunteer EMT for many years noted that they recognize it is their responsibility to be good stewards of the contract monies the Town provides. He reiterated the difference between ALS and BLS services and explained why ALS is worth the extra funding. He supported Mr. Russell and Mr. Stackrow's explanation that declining membership is their greatest challenges.

Military Banners: Supervisor Perry said we've had many inquiries about installing banners on telephone poles throughout the Town. She reached out to our Veteran's organization and Joel Hunt, Highway Department, who said he would be willing to put up and take down the banners. An Averill Park High School student, Danielle, LaPierre, volunteered to help with this project and Mrs. Perry is going to work with her to get the program off the ground. More details will follow in the next few months.

Recycling Update: Councilman Nippes said he got a proposal out to Twin Bridges and Waste Management and is waiting for them to get back to him. Wayne Gendron said Hardesty Waste Management might be another company interested.

Looking forward to the October 14th meeting there will be 2 Resolutions. The first one will be to appoint members to the Planning Oversight Committee and set up their agenda. Shirley Neiss reminded Supervisor Perry we will also need a Resolution to approve the Adoption of Retention and Disposition Schedule for NY Local Government Records. Also a memorandum of agreement with UPSEU will need to be formalized to allow the union employees to forego entitled raises in salaries this year. There will be a Public Hearing regarding a Resolution to disallow parking on Parker Road.

Brian Hunt Commission of Public Works reported on the structural issues with the bridge on Glass Lake Road and assured everyone the bridge will be repaired. Commissioner Hunt thanked Wayne Bonesteel, Town Engineer for inspecting the bridge problems with him and working out a plan for repair.

Supervisor Perry made a motion to adjourn the September 30, 2020 Workshop Meeting. Said motion was seconded by Councilman Film.

MOTION CARRIED: UNANIMOUS