

October 8, 2020

The Special Budget meeting of the Tyre Town Board was held Thursday, October 8, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. in the Tyre Municipal Building, 1082 Gravel Road, Seneca Falls, NY 13148, in the Town of Tyre.

## **Pledge of Allegiance**

**Roll Call:** Supervisor Ronald McGreevy – here; Councilman Reginald Aceto – absent; Councilman James Rogers – here; Councilman Kenneth Sutterby – here; Councilman Thomas Thomson – here

**Others Present:** PBM's Larry Kesel; Administrative Assistant Karen Birch; Bookkeeper Michael Gross; ZEO Craig Reynolds; Assessor Phil Griswold; Judge Kathy Jans-Duffy; Judge Greg Guy; Dave Page – Magee Fire Department;

Supervisor McGreevy – have had roll call – quorum present – meeting called to order at 6:30 p.m.

Supervisor McGreevy introduced Mr. Charles Shaffer, Esq., representing the Town of Tyre

Bookkeeper Gross proceeded to review the preliminary 2021 budget in its entirety discussing each page. See the attached budgets with changes that were discussed during this meeting.

Assessors line- Phil Griswold – Town Assessor- offered that his contractual line be reduced to \$10,000.00 and he also suggested his legal line be reduced to \$2,500.00. This amendment was appreciated and helpful to lower the overall property tax rate in the township, as stated by Bookkeeper Michael Gross.

Town Clerk line – Supervisor McGreevy asked if Mrs. Sutterby was understanding of this part time budget line being eliminated and Town Clerk Carol Sosnowski stated she had spoken to Mrs. Sutterby and she was understanding of the elimination.

Cemeteries line – Bob Eddington – Town Highway Superintendent- offered that this line could be reduced to \$500.00.

Employee Benefits line- A question was raised for clarification on the medical insurance line regarding if this was available to all eligible employees. There are only enough funds in the budget to cover the 3 employees who are currently receiving medical insurance. Discussion ensued over the potential issue of other eligible employees who may need medical insurance and how this would be addressed. Bookkeeper Michael Gross stated that any additional employees would need to pay the entire health insurance premium, as the town only

budgeted for 3 employees. Further discussion ensued and it was ascertained that if other employees came forth with a medical insurance need, the general fund could cover their costs as well. Town Clerk Carol Sosnowski suggested other options for the town to enter into medical coverage that would be less expensive for the township.

Fire Protection District line- Discussion ensued regarding the need to reinstate the fire tax in 2021 to total \$160,301.00. As Attorney Charlie Shaffer explained that with the NYS Governor having shut down many businesses in the state, including the casino, for approximately 6 months, we cannot guarantee they would be open when the fire tax is due in January 2021. Therefore, to budget proactively and safely, the town should reinstate the fire tax in 2021. Councilman Sutterby asked for confirmation that this would be the only way to pay the fire protection costs, by reinstating the fire tax? Bookkeeper Michael Gross stated that this is the only way.

Councilman James Rogers suggested the reduction of \$500.00 in the Town Board contractual services line.

Town Justice Kathy Jans- Duffy suggested the reduction of \$250 in the Historian line.

**Scheduled Speakers:** None

**Other Business:**

Supervisor McGreevy asked Town Attorney Shaffer to discuss the RFP Process for 2021 Fire Protection.

Attorney Shaffer explained the RFP process and began by explaining that for approximately forty years, he was involved in the fire contract and everything was pretty much the same except for the amount of funds associated with each particular year. He stated that in the Community Mitigation Plan, del Lago made annual monetary agreements with Magee Volunteer Fire Department. Due to this fact, the town was able to eliminate the town's fire tax. He, furthermore, explained the approximate 6 month gap in time for the casino to bring in any revenue due to the mandatory NYS Governors order to shut down. Discussions have been had with del Lago regarding the fire tax for 2021 and they agreed to pay the fire tax in January 2021, if they are open. However, there is no guarantee that they will be open and in this current climate, the town would not be wise to count on this revenue, if in fact, it may not be there to utilize. The budget figure that is currently proposed, is the figure that was previously agreed upon by del Lago in their memo of understanding with the Magee Volunteer Fire Department. Attorney Shaffer reiterated that the town is not a party to this agreement.

Attorney Shaffer further explained that the town board members have been inundated with complaints from the fire fighters side of the Magee Volunteer Fire Department regarding the board of directors at MVFD throughout 2020. He explained that it is not the business of the town board to police the MVFD and get involved in their internal matters. Because of these various complaints, the town began to embark on due diligence to ascertain what the options are for the township. The town held two meetings with both sides of the Magee Volunteer Fire Department, being the board members and the firefighters. Issues and concerns were raised at these meetings.

Attorney Shaffer stated that the town had 3 options:

1. Hope that the MVFD would resolve their internal issues.
2. Prepare a Request For Proposal (RFP). (Attorney Shaffer interviewed 2 attorneys that specialized in fire department matters and recommended Mark Butler, Esq. meet with the Town Supervisor to discuss the towns options.)
3. Form a Fire District

Attorney Shaffer stated that RFP's were sent out under the preparation and supervision of Mark Butler, Esq. As of this time, Attorney Butler's recommendation was to cancel the previously scheduled Public Hearing for 10-15-20, as well as rejecting the RFP's received as unacceptable.

Attorney Shaffer reiterated that the town is still on track to complete this process by the budget due date.

#### Proposed Resolution Regarding Rejecting All RFP Submissions for 2021 Fire Protection

Motion made by Councilman Sutterby and seconded by Councilman Thomson. Adopted by roll call vote as follows:

	YEA	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Councilman Thomson	X			
Councilman Rogers	X			
Councilman Aceto				X
Councilman Sutterby	X			
Supervisor McGreevy	X			

Resolution duly adopted. Resolution follows.

#### **Supervisor Correspondence/Report:**

Public Hearing Previously Scheduled for October 15, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. at the Tyre Municipal Building for the Purpose of Contracting with a Fire Department for Fire Protection has been cancelled.

**Adjournment:**

Councilman Sutterby moved, seconded by Councilman Rogers that the meeting be adjourned at 7:58 p.m. VOTE: Yea – 4; Nay – 0; Abstain – 0; Absent – 1

Submitted by,

Carolyn Sosnowski  
Town Clerk