

September 18, 2023

The special meeting of the Tyre Town Board was held Monday, September 18, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. in the Tyre Municipal Building, 1082 Gravel Road, Seneca Falls, NY 13148

Supervisor Partee called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call: Councilman Jeff Bennett - here; Councilman Henry Bickel – here; Councilman Kenneth Sutterby – here; Supervisor Beth Partee – here

Others Present: Steven Farnsworth, AJ Daily, Zach Larsen, Allen Larsen, Stephen Lawrence, Delmar Wise, David Paige, Linda Jones, Jay Horning, Reginald Aceto, Cory Forjone, John Fiorelli, Carl Martin, Michael Hurst, Lewis Weaver, Joshua Paige, Joe Tavano, Richard Movio

Discussion of matters relating to rebuilding a local fire department in the Town of Tyre:

Supervisor Partee thanked everyone for coming to tonight's meeting. She acknowledged all firefighters present and stated she sincerely appreciates everyone's dedication and service in keeping individual communities safe, as well as the greater Seneca County community.

Supervisor Partee reiterated that the purpose of tonight's meeting is for the Town Board to gauge community interest and commitment in rebuilding our own local fire department. She stated that the Board needs to hear from Tyre residents. Community safety is the #1 goal.

Open Floor for Tyre residents to voice their input and concerns:

David Paige – Town Resident: Would like to know how this fire department is going to be structured?

Supervisor Partee responded that the initial board will be established by the Town Board.

Councilman Sutterby stated that the Town Board will act as a “Board of Commissioners” of sorts. Supervisor Partee stated that she wants to be clear that the Town Board is not going to be a “Board of (Fire) Commissioners” and that the Town is not establishing a Fire District. The Town will continue to have a Fire Protection District and the Town Board will have oversight of the established fire company per not-for-profit corporation law. The Town Board will adopt the articles of incorporation and the by-laws, approve membership, and have final approval for purchasing/maintenance of equipment.

Mr. Paige asked how many members is the Town Board looking for to get this project started?

Councilman Sutterby stated the ideal would be 15 members to start.

Supervisor Partee asked if there was anyone else wishing to speak?

No one responded

Councilman Sutterby stated that it has been brought to his attention that the Tyre community holds the previous Town Board responsible for the demise of the Magee Fire Department. He clarified that there was an internal issue between firefighters and the Magee Board which led to fire calls not being responded to. This led to the Tyre Town Board feeling that the contract was not being honored by Magee Fire Department and the Town Board cancelled their contract with them.

Linda Jones – Resident – Stated that she will volunteer to help do paperwork or office work and that fire services are important and a local fire service is very important to her.

Councilman Bennet stated that it takes a well rounded mix of people to make this work and thanked everyone for showing up. Councilman Bennett asked for a show of hands of who were Tyre residents and 24 people raised their hands.

John Konrad – Resident – asked what the status of the facilities and the apparatus are? Supervisor Partee responded that the Town owns all of the facilities and all of the apparatus. Mr. Konrad then asked what the shape of the buildings are? Councilman Sutterby responded that #1 house needs minor repairs; #2 is uninhabitable; and #3 needs windows, doors, and furnace work. Mr. Konrad stated that he is willing to help out wherever needed – he is a career firefighter and served on a board of commissioners before.

A question was asked from the audience: How long to get up and running?

There was general discussion from all surrounding this question. Supervisor Partee stated that the Town could pay for a trainer to come in to do the training. Minimum training would be 80 hours for BEFO and 80 hours for IFO. This would be just to get started.

Supervisor Partee asked for a show of hands for residents who would be willing to join the fire department as operational fire fighters? There were 12 hands that were raised. She asked these 12 residents to leave her their name, phone number, and address so that the Board can come up with a plan of action for moving forward.

Joe Tavano, Sr. (Chairman of the Galen-Clyde Fire District Board of Commissioners) stated that Clyde-Galen Fire Department is still open to setting up a meeting to discuss an IMA (inter-municipal agreement) with the Town of Tyre.

Other Business:

Liability Insurance for the Town

Supervisor Partee reported that this year the Town applied to both Selective and NYMIR to reinsure the Town. The proposal with NYMIR is at \$38,747 which is very competitive. The expiring contract from Selective for this past year was \$54,000. The Cybersecurity liability insurance is quoted with a stand alone company as NYMIR would not bind without some highly critical items satisfied with regards to the Town's cybersecurity. The proposal with JenCap is offered at \$2,700 and includes higher limits compared to the offer available with NYMIR. Additional coverage options are offered by NYMIR. Our insurance agent highly

recommends we consider increasing the excess/umbrella limit from \$3M/\$6M to \$5M/\$10M. The additional premium to do this is \$1,980. The total estimated premium of \$43,427 includes the cyber liability and the increased excess/umbrella limit.

Motion to direct the Town Supervisor to engage with our insurance agent (Finger Lakes Partners Insurance) to sign with NYMIR, as well as include the cyber liability insurance and the increased excess/umbrella limit for a total estimated premium of \$43,427 made by Councilman Bennett, seconded by Councilman Bickel.

VOTE: Aye – 4; Nay – 0; Abstain – 0; Absent – 0

Motion carried

Adjournment:

Councilman Sutterby moved, seconded by Councilman Bennett that the meeting be adjourned at 7:12 p.m. VOTE: Aye – 4; Nay – 0; Absent – 0; Abstain – 0

Motion carried – meeting adjourned

Submitted by,

Carolyn Sosnowski
Tyre Town Clerk

