

Minutes of the Smithville Town Board
November 10, 2011
PUBLIC HEARINGS: FIRE DISTRICT CHANGE; 2012 GENEGANTSLET FIRE CO.
CONTRACT; 2012 TOWN OF SMITHVILLE BUDGET

Supervisor Johnson called the special meeting to order at 6:10pm. Present were the following:

Supervisor Allan Johnson

Board members:

Elizabeth Vanderweyde

Charles Schultes

Holly Mohr

Absent: Board member Roger Connelly

Town Clerk Alison Owens

Genegant. Fire Chief Bob Whitmore

some members of the Genegantslet Fire Co.

several residents of the Town

PUBLIC HEARING FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON CHANGING RESPONSIBILITY OF THE SMITHVILLE CENTER FIRE DISTRICT FROM THE VILLAGE OF GREENE TO THE GENEGANTSLET FIRE CO.

The legal notice as it appeared in the Chenango American was read by Town Clerk Owens. Supervisor Johnson declared the Public Hearing OPEN at 6:12pm. Background information on the 4 different fire districts within the Town of Smithville was given by Supervisor Johnson. A map of the current fire districts was also shown. The floor was open for comments.

Pamela Thorn: by letter, read by Councilwoman Vanderweyde; expressed concern about changing from Village of Greene protection to the Genegantslet Fire Co. citing distance, incline of roads, conditions of roads in winter, manpower available and ISO ratings.

Bob Whitmore, Fire Chief: yes the Genegantslet Fire Co. is smaller but everyone has manpower problems, Raymond does not allow fire fighters to leave work now to attend to a fire. Average 5-7 minutes to get a truck out. Feels the Genegantslet Fire Co. can cover the area as well as Greene. The Co. has new members that will add manpower. He referred to recent fire on King Rd. in Smithville.

Christine Pollard: what is a tone-out? Will the terrain be a problem?

Bob Whitmore: The Genegantslet Co. already goes to the end of Waldon Rd.; the major hill is the one from State Hwy 41 to the top of County Rd. 3. Once beyond that, gravity is used to get the truck up and down the remaining hills. We are looking at getting the ISO rating down.

Manpower is always a problem because people work out of Town. By laws were re-written a couple of years ago to include a larger geographical area to call upon for membership. The goal is to get a truck stationed in the middle of Smithville where the members would be available to run it.

Supervisor Johnson: With regard to Insurance, answers are mixed and confusing. Insurance records indicate all this (Smithville Center Fire District) territory is already covered by the Genegantslet Fire Co. He advised those attending tonight's meeting to call their insurance companies to ask what the potential Fire Company change and any resulting ISO change would do to their insurance rates.

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Melissa Stagnaro: Concerned what is driving this decision. If the service is going to be better then she is all for it. If it is a budget issue, then she is not in favor. Stationing a fire truck up there (in the Smithville Center area) would change her mind.

John Cammarata: Had a major fire at his house in 2008 with 10.5” of snow on the ground; Genegantslet Fire co. was first there with pumper, and had to wait for Greene to show up.

Ken Whitmore III: The Genegantslet Fire Co. can do just as good a job. If so, why send taxpayers money to another municipality?

Melissa Stagnaro: her neighbors are in the Greene or Oxford fire companies so she doesn't see the Town of Smithville fire trucks.

Supervisor Johnson: A decision has not been made, nor has a proposal been made. He invited further communication by phone, email or snailmail.

Kurt Pollard: when is contract renewal? How does the different tax rate affect who has responsibility?

Supervisor Johnson: The current contract is good through Dec. 31st. 2011. The current tax rates per thousand are:
Genegantslet Fire Co. \$9.94 p/th
Oxford \$8.93p/th
Brisben \$8.80 p/th
Greene \$8.18 p/th

Marcia Miller, Mayor of the Village of Greene: We will need decision by 2nd Monday of December.

There were no other comments. Supervisor Johnson declared the Public Hearing CLOSED at 6:40pm.

PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE GENEGANTSLET FIRE CO. INC. 2012 CONTRACT

The legal notice as it appeared in the Chenango American was read by Town Clerk Alison Owens. Supervisor Johnson read the conditions of the proposed contract for 2012. The amount to be raised by tax is \$89,031. Supervisor Johnson declared the Hearing OPEN at 6:41pm.

There were no comments. Supervisor Johnson declared the hearing CLOSED at 6:43pm.

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PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE 2012 TOWN OF SMITHVILLE BUDGET

Town Clerk Owens read the legal ad as it appeared in the Chenango American. Supervisor Johnson indicated the Preliminary Budget has been on file for inspection at the Town Clerk's office for 2 weeks. The proposed 2012 Fire District tax rates in the Town of Smithville are as follows:

Genegantslet Fire Co. Inc. + \$.14 p/th

Oxford +.12 p/th

Brisben +.14 p/th

Greene + .07 p/th

Supervisor Johnson explained that the increases in the 2012 Budget are due to changes in assessed valuation. In 2011 the Taxable Value was 50,315,947.; the 2012 Taxable Value is \$49,952,387., a drop of not quite \$400,000. State Retirement, Health Insurance coverage/premiums has increased. 28 line items were reduced slightly to try and offset any increases.

Councilman Connelly arrived at 6:46pm.

Supervisor Johnson declared the Public Hearing OPEN at 6:51pm. There were no comments. Supervisor Johnson declared the Public Hearing CLOSED at 6:51pm.

No further action was made with regard to the Public Hearings.

OTHER BUSINESS

Flag Pole plaque: Supervisor Johnson asked Board members to move forward with a Resolution to approve placement of a small plaque on the flagpole to honor the individual who made that donation several years ago. There is no cost to the Town and the visual/geographical impact is minimal. Supervisor Johnson offered the Resolution to approve placement of the plaque on the flagpole with Councilwoman Vanderweyde 2nd the motion

RESOLUTION # 33 (2011): AUTHORIZE PLACEMENT OF PLAQUE ON FLAGPOLE

On a motion by Supervisor Johnson, 2nd by Councilwoman Vanderweyde, the following Resolution was NOT ADOPTED

AYES: Johnson, Vanderweyde

NAYES Schultes, Mohr, Connelly

Snowmobile/Seasonal Roads Public Hearing: Town Clerk Owens submitted a list of roads appearing last year as Snowmobile/Seasonal Roads and which will need to be advertised for a Public Hearing for this season. Highway Sup't Kinney has reviewed the list and indicated there were no changes on his part. A Resolution to advertise for a Public Hearing on Nov. 21st at 6:15 and 6:20pm was offered.

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**RESOLUTION # 34 (2011): ADVERTISE FOR SNOWMOBILE/SEASONAL RD
PUBLIC HEARINGS**

On a motion by Councilwoman Vanderweyde, 2nd by Councilman Schultes, the following Resolution was ADOPTED.

AYES: Vanderweyde, Schultes, Mohr, Connelly, Connelly
NAYES: 0

RESOLVED to advertise 1 week in the Chenango American for a Public Hearing for the Snowmobile Roads at 6:15pm and the Seasonal Roads at 6:20pm on November 21, 2011.

It was mentioned the Highway Sup't needs a Deputy and by law he has a certain # of days to appoint one after the election.

There was no other business to come before the Board. Supervisor Johnson declared the meeting adjourned at 7pm. The monthly meeting will be November 21, 2011.

Alison B. Owens

Smithville Town Clerk