

A Work Session of the Town Board of the Town of Clarence was held on Wednesday, September 2, 2015 at Clarence Town Hall, One Town Place, Clarence, New York.

Supervisor David Hartzell called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M. Members of the Town Board present were Councilmember's Bernard Kolber, Patrick Casilio, Peter DiCostanzo and Robert Geiger. Other Town Officials present were Highway Superintendent James Dussing, Town Attorney Lawrence Meckler and Director of Administration and Finance Pamela Cuvillo.

Clarence Center VFC

Thomas Brady representing Clarence Center VFC stated that the fire department submitted a budget requesting a 3% increase. He first heard about the tax cap the other day so they had to move some things around. There is approximately \$250,000 left on their mortgage which will be paid off in two years. The fire department is considering purchasing land in the north end of town for a substation. ISO (International Standards) did an evaluation and a substation is not warranted at this time however the price of land keeps rising. Another possibility is to add a bay onto the current fire hall however, they are not sure where it would go. The roof and the roof top heaters have to be replaced. Two of the six heaters were replaced in 2004 when the fire hall was remodeled. The boiler is also in need of replacement. There are some major expenses coming in the near future. They have been building up their Repairs and Maintenance Budget to take care of some of these expenses.

East Amherst VFC

Representatives from East Amherst VFC submitted their budget request to the Board. They are requesting a 2% increase over a three year period which amounts to \$16,481. The basis for their requested budget increase is the increase in calls in both Amherst and Clarence – they are over 1000 calls this year (there is a 30% increase in calls for Clarence alone). Thirteen new firefighters have been recruited along with five new additional applicants however it cost \$3,000 per fire fighter for new turnout gear. Engine #3 is up for replacement, new engines cost upwards of \$500,000. Rescue 7 also needs replacement. The LDH Hose will be replaced as well. Improvements will be made to their training area at Station #2 which will enhance their ability to train at this location. The fire department is in the process of upgrading their vehicle exhaust systems (the system is intact but the boots that attach the exhaust system inside the fire house to the vehicle need to be replaced). Heat loss and ice jam damage need to be addressed at Station #1.

East Amherst fire department has the lowest tax rate per thousand, their last three year budgets was at 0% increase. Their annual audit has been done and their 990 form is available for review.

Harris Hill VFC

Harris Hill VFC had their budget meeting this past Monday and they are proposing a request of \$742,000 which is just under 1.2% increase. They felt this request was fair given their new membership and the cost to outfit each new member (uniforms and equipment). Firematic supplies will be purchased in the near future including new air cylinders, replacement of CO meters, fire hoses, and building maintenance. The building is nearly ten years old. They will have to eventually look into upgrading their camera system. They have issues with their apparatus room floor that will have to be addressed at some future date. They reduced their reserves (which the town suggested they do) in doing so, they renegotiated their mortgage at a better rate. Their mortgage payment has been reduced but in the process, their investment income was also reduced. They are in the process of purchasing a Cascade System at a cost of \$40,000 to refill air bottles. The

payment will be spread out over two years, the system will pay for itself in approximately four years. Their firematic equipment budget has been coming down from year to year including through the current year. Harris Hill VFC is working on obtaining grants and have received a grant for fire hoses. Harris Hill VFC would be interested in negotiating a 2-year budget.

Rapids VFC

The treasurer of Rapids VFC was present to answer any questions regarding their budget request of 2% totaling \$42,549. There is a reserve of \$85,000 for a new facilities project and a reserve of \$90,000 for vehicle replacement. They hope to go out to bid this year for a new truck.

Swormville VFC

Swormville VFC has a multi-year contract with the Town which they agreed to at 2%. They submitted their budget at .73% which is an increase of \$2,800 from last year. They would like to continue with the multi-year contract.

Councilman DiCostanzo stated that Clarence Center VFC has two years left on their mortgage (\$250,000.). What they are asking for in the budget is \$119,000 toward their mortgage. They are requesting \$205,000 to be put into reserves for vehicles however, Harris Hill VFC is only asking for \$50,000. \$205,000 is a large amount if you look at the requests from the other fire departments. Firematic equipment \$44,000, repairs and maintenance on their building \$45,000, fire equipment \$12,000, vehicle repairs/maintenance \$45,000 and then there are still Capital Reserves for the building of \$50,000 and on top of that \$205,000 for vehicles. Councilman DiCostanzo does not see why Clarence Center cannot stay close to the same amount as last year. Clarence Center's budget was increased 1.5% two years ago - \$812,000 and their request this year \$828,000 would be a 3.2% increase which is way above what the other fire departments are requesting. Councilman Casilio asked Pam CuvIELLO to request an updated equipment/vehicle replacement schedule from Clarence Center VFC.

Councilman Kolber reported on an incident that happened on Sunday morning while he was traveling down Wehrle Drive, a stray dog ran out into the road. The dog was very emaciated and had a large neck wound. He contacted Clarence Animal Control and Donna Giezycki responded and took control of the situation. Councilman Kolber commended Donna and the employees of the Town of Clarence for the work they do for the residents of Clarence.

Supervisor Hartzell will send a letter to Lancaster Supervisor Dino Fudoli indicating that the Town of Clarence has decided not to pursue Animal Control with the Town of Lancaster.

Motion by Councilman DiCostanzo, seconded by Councilman Kolber to approve the request of the applicant, Brookfield Country Club for a Fireworks Display Permit for September 6, 2015 at 5120 Shimerville Road. On the question, all appropriate paperwork, fees, insurance and fire chief approvals are on file in the Planning and Zoning Office. Councilman Casilio suggested a "blanket approval" for Brookfield Country Club for the year as long as we do not get any complaints. Councilman Kolber felt there would be more control and a record of dates and times with individual approvals, Councilman Geiger agreed. Upon roll call - Ayes: All; Noes: None. Motion carried.

Highway Superintendent James Dussing

The removal of the lights/poles from the Wehrle Golf Dome went well. Hank Stockwell supplied some of the labor and a crane. James Burkard and Robert Linde spearheaded the project and Paul Meyers from the Parks Department helped out as well.

The poles/lights are being stored at the Highway Department. Superintendent Dussing suggested sending a letter to David Huck and Hank Stockwell thanking them for their donation to the town.

Now that there are lights/poles, Councilman Kolber would like to see football fields/practice fields put in on Kraus Road. Councilman Kolber asked that Highway Superintendent Dussing schedule a meeting with Parks Department and Clarence Football to get the fields in.

The Highway Department has been working very hard to get Clarence Center in shape for Labor Day weekend. Brush has been picked up, all the crosswalks have been resprayed and street signs have been updated

Drainage work continues, there were several complaints from all the rain the other day.

Stonebriar Drive (off of Heise Road) will be the last paving project this year. The new paver will be put to use for this project. Garbage trucks on the roads every day of the week decreases the lifecycle of a road, not to mention garbage cans blowing around every day of the week. Several developments have put their garbage out to bid so they only have one disposal company on their streets per week.

This has been a busy year as far as brush pickup. Councilman DiCostanzo noted that there are hired tree surgeons cutting down trees and putting the brush and stumps to the road for the Highway Department to pick up.

The Town Board enter into Executive Session to discuss an Attorney-Client matter.

There being no further business, the Work Session adjourned at 10:17AM.

Darcy A. Snyder
Deputy Town Clerk