



VILLAGE OF JOHNSON CITY

MUNICIPAL BUILDING
243 MAIN STREET • JOHNSON CITY, NY 13790
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Village Board

Gregory Deemie, Mayor
Bruce King, Deputy Mayor
Richard Balles, Trustee Martin Meaney, Trustee John Walker, Trustee

Minutes of the Village of Johnson City Special Meeting held on Thursday, April 13, 2017 in the Municipal Building, 243 Main St., Johnson City

Present: Gregory Deemie, Mayor
 Bruce King, Deputy Mayor
 Richard Balles, Trustee
 Martin Meaney, Trustee
 John Walker, Trustee

Absent: None

Also Present: Cindy Kennerup, Clerk/Treasurer

Mayor Deemie called the meeting to order at 7:30pm, led the Pledge of Allegiance and noted the fire exits.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

OLD BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS

Public Hearing - 2017-2018 Village Budget

Mayor Deemie opened the public hearing.

(Note – The tape recorder was not turned on until this point in the meeting.)

Chris Waters, Adams Avenue – Asked about the Fire Department – in the budget meetings there was a lot of discussion about contract negotiations. He noticed that there is an adjustment of \$190,000.00 in the Fire budget and asked about the negotiations. Mayor Deemie stated that he cannot talk about the negotiations themselves but he can say that Trustee Balles and Trustee King have been working with the Fire Department on a contract and they felt that they were close to a ratification and felt they had a good number for retro pay. They have been without a contract since 2011. Mr. Waters stated that there was also discussion about the Police contract but he doesn't see any adjustments in their budget. Mayor Deemie stated not at this point. Mr. Waters asked if that means you go back after and adjust it. Mayor Deemie stated there are many ways it can work. We may have to borrow it or maybe we could work out a schedule with them that spreads it out over years. There are still negotiations going on. Mr. Waters asked about the amount of overtime in the Water Department budget. Mayor Deemie stated that they will be adjusting that number down.

Monica Silas, North Broad Street – Asked how much we are bonding for. Mayor Deemie stated that as of right now it is \$2,959,666.67. Ms. Silas asked what the rate is. Mayor



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Deemie stated he is unsure of the rate right now. We have to wait until we go out to bond. Ms. Silas asked what our bond rating is now. Mayor Deemie stated that it was just decreased a little and we have resubmitted to Moody's to look at our rating because we felt we are in better shape. Ms. Silas asked what we are bonding for. Mayor Deemie explained it is for renovations to Village Hall for the HVAC system, Justice Building roof repairs, finish boiler and HVAC repairs in the justice building, a couple of police vehicles, a tower ladder truck for the Fire Department, Reynolds Road road design, Harry L. Drive road design and the Wren Street water tanks project.

Mayor Deemie explained that we will be adjusting the figure down. Ms. Silas asked when the last time we used the ladder on the ladder truck was. Mayor Deemie stated that he would have to ask the Chief. Ms. Silas stated that why wouldn't we spent half of that on a new quint that we also could use and enter an agreement with Endwell to use their ladder truck. Ms. Silas asked about the mileage on the ladder truck. Mayor Deemie stated that it is 25 – 30,000 miles. We could buy 2 quint trucks for that amount. Trustee Meaney explained how many times he went up the ladder as a firefighter and explained that road miles are very different from motor miles. Trustee Meaney explained that ISO states to get credit for a ladder truck that it has to be able to reach your tallest structure or a minimum of 100 feet tall. If we don't keep that truck, then our ISO rating goes up and then everyone Village wide – your homeowner's/fire insurance goes up. Ms. Silas asked if we entered into an agreement with Endwell for their ladder truck. Trustee Meaney stated that it would not count for our ISO rating. Ms. Silas asked why we are paying a Chaplin and stated when she was in office they looked at 55 municipalities and those Chaplains felt it was an honor to serve. It is \$1,000 that could come out of the budget.

Rob Egan, Plymouth Street – Asked about the ISO rating – do we know how much it would go up. He feels it would be good to know those numbers before we spend \$1.2 million on a truck that barely gets used. Trustee Meaney stated that the truck does get used a lot. Just because you don't see it up in the air doesn't mean it doesn't get used. Right now we responded over to Ekelberger Towers for a report of a fire. If you have a quint, and this is on the 7th floor, you are not going to get to the 7th floor with a quint. Trustee Meaney also explained that he doesn't know what our rate will go to but Chief Jacyna hopes it will come back to a 3. Right now we are at a 4. It is not as much a cost effective - how much is a life? That is what it boils down to. Mr. Egan stated you could say that about anything – we should hire 100 more police officers because we might lose a life. That is a slippery slope. He feels that we have enough other resources in the area to come help. He feels that you can't use the reason that it might affect our homeowners insurance if you don't know the rates. Trustee Meaney stated that he can tell you it will be a negative effect. Mr. Egan stated you can't use that as the sole purpose for getting a new truck. Trustee Meaney stated it is not the sole purpose. The truck is rotting out. It is 32 years old. The purpose is for the life safety of the residents of the Village. They only have a life expectancy of 20 - 25 years depending on usage so we have done pretty good. Mr. Egan thinks we need to look at other options. Trustee Walker stated that we did ask the Fire Chief to look at used vehicles and possible lease options. There are people on the Board who feel the truck is not necessary at this time and we will weigh that out prior to approving \$1.2 million for bonding. Trustee King stated that as Trustee Meaney explained, the truck is deteriorating on the frame and if we lose our street worthy rating, then it has to come off. There is no resale – it will have to go for scrap. There is no salvaging that frame. We were warned a few years ago. Maybe there will be a less



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expensive option, maybe there will be donations towards the cost. Trustee King explained that there is nothing that says we have to borrow that money.

Monica Silas, North Broad Street – Stated that the Village was forced to get the truck because of the buildings at UHS and suggested asking them and NYS who is building the Pharmacy School to help with the cost. She is not against the truck, just the price of it. Mayor Deemie stated that to go back to her earlier question – we are at BA1. We were A3. Regarding asking for funds, the Village can't ask for donations. It has to be done in a certain way. The Board has been looking at UHS, NYS and the other non-profits and he is working with legal to draft letters similar to what Syracuse and Whitney Point have done to ask groups to voluntarily contribute funds. Trustee Meaney explained that the ladder truck replaced a 1948 truck and gave a brief history of the truck. Ms. Silas asked about the 50/50 sales tax revenue and asked if was addressed with the County Legislator. Mayor Deemie stated that it was voted in by the Legislature just before County Executive Garner took office. We have a check of \$105,000.00 coming.

Julie Deemie, Zoa Avenue – Has concerns on the ladder truck. Has heard the frame is bad and has heard that the engine is bad and it can't make it up the hills. Which is it – is it both? Mayor Deemie stated that according to the Chief it is both. Mrs. Deemie asked if the department keeps a maintenance log and who does the maintenance on the engine. Mayor Deemie stated he would have to ask the Chief and the mechanic. Mrs. Deemie stated that in the last couple of months she saw it going up Reynolds Road and there was a lot of smoke coming from it. She has concerns if it is being maintained properly. Trustee Meaney explained that when he was there maintenance logs were kept and it is a diesel engine so there will be more smoke than a regular engine. It has a lot of motor miles on it. Mrs. Deemie asked if there was a grant out for it. Mayor Deemie stated that yes Chief has applied for a grant. Mrs. Deemie stated that we should see if the grant comes through first because if we can access the funds through borrowing it may lose us the grant. She stated that the Fire Department has an association that has raised funds for charities. Volunteer departments raise funds all the time. Does the Fire Association has the ability to raise the funds for the truck? Mayor Deemie stated that he does not know. Trustee Walker stated that most of the fundraising done by volunteer departments it is for small amounts. Their trucks are bonded for. Mrs. Deemie feels that it is extravagant and we should wait to see if the grant comes through. She has witnessed residents screaming for tennis courts and roads. Mrs. Deemie asked how would the Chevy Tahoe be paid for. Mayor Deemie stated that it is in the budget. Mrs. Deemie asked why it is necessary. Trustee Walker stated that according to the Chief it is the first responding vehicle on every medical call. Mrs. Deemie asked why it has to be a Chevy Tahoe. Why can't it be a less expensive vehicle or an older vehicle. Trustee Walker stated that they asked the Chief to look for a used vehicle. Mrs. Deemie asked what they are using now. Trustee Walker, Trustee King and Mayor Deemie stated it is a Chevy Suburban. Mrs. Deemie asked what is the issue with the current vehicle. Trustee Meaney stated that it is almost 20 years old. Trustee King stated that it is running out of life and needs to be large enough to hold all of their equipment. Mrs. Deemie stated that she objects to that kind of spending. Trustee King stated that this is the 3rd grant application for the ladder truck in 4 years. We have been refused twice.

Monica Silas, North Broad Street – Asked what a possible Police retro amount might be. Trustee King the yearly retro would be approximately \$50,000.00. The total would be about \$170,000.00. They have been without a contract since 2013.



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Rob Egan, Plymouth Street – Asked what the plan is to get under the cap. Mayor Deemie explained that at the next meeting they will be discussing the options. Mr. Egan asked what kind of increase we are looking at for water, service and refuse. Mayor Deemie explained that we will be looking at that next.

Monica Silas, North Broad Street – Asked what the amount of the fund balance is there after this fiscal year. Mayor Deemie stated that as of 2016 it was \$3.3 million.

Rob Egan, Plymouth Street – Asked what do you do with unspent bond monies. It is his understanding that it is dumped into the revenue line. Trustee King explained that it is not to go into the revenue line. It has to go against specific items. It goes back onto the bond. The new accounting software will help track that.

Monica Silas, North Broad Street – Asked how many new hires the Village is planning. Mayor Deemie stated there are 2 for the Police Department. There is a potential part time employee that would be paid for under the Zombie Grant. That position will last only for the term of the grant.

Mayor Deemie closed the public hearing.

The next budget meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 17, 2017 at 6:00pm. The tentative approval will be on April 25, 2017.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Deemie adjourned the meeting at 8:06pm.

Cindy Kennerup
Clerk/Treasurer

CK/db

Recordings of the Village Board meetings and work sessions are available for review through the Village Clerk/Treasurer's Office.