



## VILLAGE OF JOHNSON CITY

MUNICIPAL BUILDING  
243 MAIN STREET, JOHNSON CITY, NY 13790

[www.villageofjc.com](http://www.villageofjc.com)

### Village Board

Gregory Deemie, Mayor  
Bruce King, Deputy Mayor

Richard Balles, Trustee    Martin Meaney, Trustee    John Walker, Trustee

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### Minutes of a Work Session of the Johnson City Village Board held at 5:30pm on Tuesday, November 21, 2017 in the Municipal Building, 243 Main Street, Johnson City

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

Absent:            None

Also Present:    Cheryl Sacco, Legal Counsel  
                      Cindy Kennerup, Clerk/Treasurer  
                      Dai Korba, Grant Writer  
                      Fire Chief, Paul Jacyna  
                      Police Chief, Brent Dodge  
                      Senator Fred Akshar

#### Discussion regarding Resolution for aerial truck

- Brian Laing from Laing Trucking came by station to give his opinion. The Mayor and Chief were present with Mr. Laing. There are some things Laing can do, some they can't. They are not NFPA certified. They can Sandblast frames, clean frames, and paint frames. When it comes to fire equipment, like ladder parts, they cannot do. The Mayor gave him list and he will give number on what he can do. If he does what work he can, it will be a two-step process because it will still have to be NFPA certified. If we go that route, we will have to go to another fire type place to get other work done. The Mayor reached out to Laing and Byrd and he heard back from Laing.
- The Mayor learned a bunch of things while Brian and the Chief were looking at it. The open cab in the back is not allowed anymore, a lot of things have changed over the years, that are important to firefighting, but we are grandfathered in.

- Chief – Air bags, anti-lock brakes not grandfathered in, but technically exempt. Current truck is not equipped with proper emergency lights and not NFPA compliant with any of the new equipment. Legally liable in the Village because of non-compliance. So much safety stuff needs to be changed.
- We are not compliant. New truck is slightly shorter, slightly smaller, and much lighter. The truck is 20,000 lbs lighter and it is still available. With the size of our department the Chief would put the truck in service the first year. It can maneuver on every street. The truck carries full Warranty. The truck is still available, but has been offered to Vestal at a higher cost.

Trustee Bruce King informed the Board on his conversation with the Choconut Center Fire Department concerning their opinion about the fire truck:

- The used dealer Choconut Center takes their fire truck to, looked at the report of everything that needs to be done and he said they wouldn't even look at it. He said they would put it out for auction, but wouldn't even want it on their lot.

Trustee John Walker reported the following on the ISO:

- He received information about ISO ratings from a lady named Melissa after he told her the situation. She said if we go with a lesser piece of apparatus the ISO rating will go up and the homeowners insurance will go up depending upon what carrier they have. Trustee Walker received correspondence from our insurance carrier and asked them for ISO ratings and they reached out to 5 different insurance carriers and they confirmed their insurance would go up, but couldn't get the numbers.
- Chief Jacyna reported that his homeowners insurance did drop, but it depends on your insurance carrier.
- Chief Jacyna reported the ISO rating went from 4 to 2.
- The ISO rating will be put our Facebook page and webpage.

The Mayor stated that he sent Senator Akshar some of the questions that were discussed at the Board meeting the other evening.

- Senator thanks us for affording him the opportunity. Doing traveling to visit with local governments to stay connected. Our issues are important to him and he wants to hear directly from us to discuss issues important to us and how he can be helpful. He has visited most of SD52, but has not spoken to Broome County Legislature, but hopes to in short order. Whether its infrastructure, he has our list of some of our issues and how he can be helpful and how he can get some of your projects funded.

Trustee Balles Discussion:

- Ladder fire truck is on top of our list. What are grant opportunities for fire trucks in the future? Is it hard to get grant money for paid fire department versus volunteer?
- Interested about AIM funding – Endicott gets \$300,000 per year and we get \$180,000. Can you see how that formula is put together and what we can do to up our side? Senator Akshar states that AIM has remained flat for quite some time. Far too long. Governor

was trying to make changes, but he is not prepared to speak on this, but will do research and turn over to the Mayor.

Senator Akshar reports on the following:

- Afforded Public Protection Dollars. Has taken Public Protection dollars and appropriated them to volunteer fire departments. They look at map of SD52 and take departments that have a smaller tax base and have been awarding \$5,000 grants to the smaller fire departments. We award \$150,000 - \$160,000 per year and the EMS providers and smaller fire departments of SD52. We just donated 2 ambulances to the Norwich fire department. They had a significant need. They are contracted and provide for 4 other municipalities/10 townships in Chenango County.
- Need to look at cost for new fire truck. We donated about \$300,000 for the two ambulances

Trustee King states that we did bond for the truck, but we haven't purchased. We got a semi new one coming in as new one, just under 1 million. A brand new one would be 1 million to \$1.3 million depending on specs.

- The funding source we have is the SAM grants (state municipal) overseen by dormitory authority. Takes 18 months to come through. Still trying to get money from my predecessor, some from 2014-2015. The Mayor states we have \$100,000 for improvements. Senator Akshar will have his office look into the \$100,000. Some appropriations are getting money in 6 months. Best if we are going to use for funding source for the Village, we bond for that. Reimbursable program. We have to spend the money and submit receipts to get the reimbursement.
- The \$100,000 project was appropriated under Senator Libous. We were advised not to start the \$100,000 project and there has been no signed grant disbursement. Dai Korba has submitted new estimates for this and then it sits there waiting. Received SAM grant recently and got our GDA signed recently. We started one last fall and it got signed a couple months ago. But the one from Libous keeps circling through and then Dai resubmits paperwork.

Senator Akshar states if you are having problems with grants, let them know as soon as possible. Under SAM grants they work with the governor to speed up process. Something done recently is moving quicker than and older grant. It is a very good sign for them that the process is getting quicker.

Trustee Walker discussion.

- He is concerned with spending taxpayer's money. We are in a community where majority of our people are on fixed incomes and they are looking for senator's input. He is concerned about the pharmacy school and area around the pharmacy school. Are any monies that could offset the cost of the pharmacy school?
- Senator Akshar explains has desire to do something around the pharmacy school. SAM money has to be spent on physical assets and has to have a life of at least ten years. It

- can't be used to purchase security cameras, planters, planting grass. It needs to be something that can improve quality of life in the area and relieve the tax payers.
- If we brought project to him for Main St and pharmacy school to fix all the roads near the pharmacy school putting new streets and sidewalks and putting all new street lights in.
- The Mayor states that all new LED street lights have been put in throughout the Village. The Town of Union did a big project.
- Bergmann Associates is doing a study. \$125,000 grant through the study they are doing on the iDistrict. They are the ones behind the Binghamton fund. They are working on a PR plan for us and ideas going on in the future.

Trustee King discusses infrastructure.

- Right now we have a lot of streets that still have combined sewers. We are spending \$280 million on sewer plant and when it's done, if it is running at 60% capacity and we have bad rains, it will push it over 100% because of infiltration and combined storm sewers.
- Slowly each year when we redo streets with separation also. We need a funding source. If we have 2 ½ miles that we want to do a complete restructure, can we break it into chunks. A complete restructure for one block, water, sewer and streets is \$250,000. If we can cut down infiltration the better it will be.
- Put a plan together and he is happy to try to fund that. What are the priorities of this administration and what type of investments do you want to make. Only so much money to go around and he is doing his best to fund SD52.
- The Mayor states that DPW has a complete study of what needs to be done and what streets need to be repaired around the Village and around the pharmacy school and UHS. This was discussed when Bob Bennett and the Mayor went to Senator Akshar's office.

Trustee Meaney brings up topic of taxes:

- Trustee Meaney states that UHS is buying blocks of properties, uses the services and they do not pay anything.
- The Mayor Responds that we can request non-profits to pay something, but nothing binds them. We can go ask them, but we want something that is more binding.
- Senator Akshar states that Senator Seward is doling a pilot program in his respective senate district where the state is offsetting some of the public safety costs. Senator Akshar tried last year to grab chunk of money to do it in SD52, but he was unsuccessful. It would have offset some of the public safety costs in Binghamton, Vestal and Johnson City. Perfect scenario for us trying to do that.
- Senator Akshar states that his policy is to not pass legislation that increases taxes. He votes no on all tax exempt bills, exception he makes is If it has something to do with public safety or military.
- UHS does pay taxes on property they rent out properties which is \$225,000, but should pay \$1.5 million. With all the development going on, Senator Akshar questions how much revenue the Village loses with these properties. The Mayor responds \$20,000 for Indian Valley, but unsure of the exact numbers for all the properties they bought.

- Trustee Walker asks Senator Akshar if he knows what UHS's future plans are. Trustee Walker states that every time UHS expands something it comes off our tax rolls and need for services increases.
- Senator Akshar asks if we have met with administration at UHS for their future plans? The Mayor did speak with John Carrigg a while ago and explains that UHS threw out ideas and thoughts, but they say nothing definite. The Board has not met with the administration.
- The Senator encourages the Board to meet with John Carrigg and Matt Salanger. He explains that UHS is trying to get a significant amount of grant money from the state.

Trustee Balles discusses resources regarding parks.

- Asks Senator Akshar if there are any resources he can tap into for parks improvements, veteran's parks improvements? Looking at doing improvements next year.
- The Senator is on board with and would be happy to facilitate that and we can include that with the SAM grant. Minimum amount is for \$50,000. If you want to do a street reconstruction for \$250,000 and \$30,000 for parks you can put that on the same application. If you want to do a separate project, keep in mind it needs to be at least \$50,000. He is happy to facilitate that project or do anything for the veterans.
- Grant Writer Dai Korba asks about green space and increase neighborhood property values in the Floral Park area and do a project for the gateway streets coming in on Baldwin and Willow to make the area more appealing for the schools. If the Senator could help move quicker.
- Senator Akshar responds if that is a priority of the Village, that is fine.

Senator Akshar discusses his meeting with Jack Williams of DOT.

- They talked specifically about what is DOT is doing throughout the region. Specifically about BMTS top priority to completely redo the 17c corridor. I am going to have a conversation with Assemblywoman Donna Lupardo to see if during this budget process, we can carve out \$10-15 million to start that initiative and he would argue that we start at Binghamton City line and work our way west. It is really good for Johnson City because we are right in the middle. With everything going on with the development and investment of the University, we may as well start here. That is complete reconstruction as well. That is just a conversation they are having. We have been blessed in region 9, getting above and beyond like kamikaze, Route 88 is additional monies for the region. So the thought is having that conversation regarding the BMTS.

Trustee Walker states that he appreciates what the Senator has done for the opiate crisis. We can't do a lot on local level and it has to come from even go above your level. Is there any money available for local police departments in order to combat the crisis? He knows what we spend on Narcan a year.

- Senator Akshar explains that he needs everyone and their brother to call the county legislature. This is an important project. We have put the legislature in a position of not having to fund this project. The Governor clearly heard us in the southern tier and has made \$3 million for funding available through oasis funding to provide services at the

Broome Developmental Center. It was not an easy lift that happened in a very short time. Specifically OGS and OPWBD to let go of a portion of that building that had not been taken off line at no charge and investing a million dollars to repurpose that building that provides services. The county acts as a pass through for organizations. We decided to do that the same way with the former Broome Development Center, to pass through the repurposing money as well as deficit funding. The County Executive has put forth his resolution and the county legislature has to act.

- The chairman wants to do his due diligence and wants to study the issue. One of the greatest honors is being co-chairman of the Senator's task force for heroin and opioid addiction and afforded him the opportunity to travel around the state to the poor and rich portions of the state and this is an issue that is poisoning New York and the nation.
- We want them to vote on it and another day we don't, we are losing people. They are doing a very good job, but the plan is not working because we are still losing people at an alarming rate. We want to provide an opportunity for services that are not currently offered in the southern tier. Encouraging everyone to let their County Executive know that this is an important project and for every day we do not stand is another day we are losing people. The Community based providers here are doing a remarkable job. However, whatever plan we have in place, clearly isn't working. We are still losing people at an alarming rate. Regardless of your ability to pay, and if you have an addiction issue, you can still get services and won't be treated any differently.
- So, you need to communicate with your County Legislature and let them know that this is an important issue, for the following reasons, and take up a vote.
- We are not in a position to fund overtime, but there have been some discussion in the task force about doing some sort of pilot statewide with organizations that have drug task forces where we would fund a portion of that program so they could specifically discuss this issue. We talked about this last year, but didn't get it off the ground. A lot of money we are appropriating to Oasis \$189 million his first year, \$214 million this current year, his second year but that money was going specifically for treatment and prevention and education recovery. Enforcement piece didn't get carved out.
- We have been very supportive of the police department in terms of buying new computers, body cams and the hope is with the money you save the money could be diverted to do other things. That funding comes by way of public protection dollars.
- Senator Akshar needs a plan and a priority. The Mayor will get will Bob and see what needs to be done regarding streets and separation and what the real big projects are. Trustee Walker states that we get \$250,000 from the CDBG every year for community grant monies.
- The Senator is concerned about federal funding and we are concerned as a state about the deficit. Senator Schumer has an interest in being helpful around the pharmacy school; however, they are restricted on their infrastructure dollars and where they can and cannot be spent. The Mayor states that they had a meeting a year or so ago regarding that and then we never heard anything else about it. Senator Akshar states we need to lay out a very comprehensive plan about things specifically happening around the pharmacy school, then it is easier to advocate with our federal partners, congresswoman and senators. He needs some direction and submission.

Senator Akshar exits meeting.

The Mayor says that he will get with Bob and get some ideas of what other locations need work and then we will get together with John Carrigg at UHS.

The Board and Chief Jacyna discuss the fire truck purchase.

- Trustee Balles – Why did we go up for competitive bid on this truck? Chief is not sure if Sutphen is the only place with these specs. Specifically spec'd for the vehicle we want. Trustee Meaney confirms with Trustee Balles that he was a Trustee when two Grummans were purchased. Trustee Balles understands it is sole source procurement and this is the type of truck we want and those specs, aluminum, mid mount, etc. are the specific requirements we want on this vehicle. If we go out with this bid, is Sutphen the only one that will bid on this with those requirements? The Chief states that there are other aerials in different parts of the country. These are mainly the ones around here. Every vehicle we bought was specifically spec'd for the rigs we wanted.
- Cheryl Sacco has a memo which everyone received. She explains that it is not about saving money. This is a sole source issue. While Pierce, Seagrove, E1 and KMC and Ferrara build a mid-mounted platform, none of them offer a 100 foot platform, a stainless steel body, a single pair of outriggers and a huck-bolted aluminum box boom aerial and Sutphen builds more mid-mount than any of the others combined. Between the weight and the way our roads are set up, the mid mount, the 5 stage ladder, this is what he wants and what the bid specs would require. We don't have to do a competitive bid.
- Trustee Balles maintains we could do a competitive bid and we will get prices back for \$1.2 or \$1.3 million. He is looking out for the taxpayers. Has been doing due diligence for last 6 months looking at this. Agree that parts that can't be manufactured for this truck. I wish we had the opportunity to put a capital fund out there, to build up that capital fund and put it into the truck.
- Trustee Walker asserts this is a stock truck, not demo truck. If you look at the stock trucks available, they are all completely different trucks. That's why the sole source is there.
- Chief Jacyna asserts that NYC does the same thing we are doing.
- Cheryl Sacco, what NYC needs, the height of their buildings, a truck they want to buy in NYC we would not want here and vice versa. That is why all of these things are why this vehicle would work for us.
- Tires –Trustee King states the truck will have brand new tires for this climate and they would put whatever tires on that the Chief wants with full warranty. They would

cost \$500 per tire (10 tires) \$5000 for tires plus mounting. Trustee King told them he wants a copy of all services that were done to the truck since it rolled off the line.

- Chief Jacyna confirms when we receive it is going to be considered brand new.
- Trustee Meaney does agree with looking into a capital fund as Trustee Balles spoke about.

**AGENDA** – The Board reviewed the agenda and the resolutions.

Goldberg Segalla - We already discussed this

Town of Union v. Time Warner - The Town of Union brought all the possible options and they going forward with what the judge decided. They wouldn't have moved forward if it we as a Board hadn't told them to move forward. Trustee Meaney questioned negative impact to Town of Union's case? The Mayor says they are still going back and forth with Time Warner. They are taking it to the next step.

Family Leave – We haven't offered paid family leave before, but now we have to opt out. You are automatically opted in unless you opt out. The Mayor states that it doesn't change anything we have. Cheryl Sacco explains that FMLA is separate from disability. Few will continue to provide the disability benefits that are required by law. Family Leave Act starts January 1<sup>st</sup> and as a public employer you have to make a decision whether or not you want to opt in. Notice provision we provide to the unions. Each Union want to come in and open up a discussion on the family Leave act and negotiate they can. Each union can be dealt with separately. If we want to opt in at a later date, we can.

Empire State Development 19 Avenue B – Dai is working on with County. They won't tear it down because it is structurally sound. Looking to use that building for a southern tier agricultural foundry, which would involve rehabbing the building and installing on the first two floors equipment that would allow farmhouse growers and craft beverage producers only New York State craft beverage producers, either alcoholic or non-alcoholic beverages and would allow them to share that space to rent a portion and commercialize their product can, package and through New York State Beverage Association ship their product in the state, out of state or out of the country. Pretty good deal as to bring money back into the area. It would have a small tasting room/restaurant space/retail space. Dai has been meeting with Taste of New York folks, Fahs Construction has offered to do a free estimate of Phase 1 which is shoring of the roof, installing a temporary roof, installing new windows and doing some basic cleanup of the building which is what she asking for funding from Restore for. I have also asked Broome County to cover the gap because Restore requires a 10% match. The County has already sent over or will be in the next couple weeks Delta Engineering to do a feasibility

study to see how much weight each floor can hold. The manufacturing equipment is quite heavy, but the man from Fahs did think that it will be strong enough to hold the equipment. More research is needed before we can assess that. Taste of New York tells me they have 9 to 10 brewers just within this region that are chomping at the bit to commercialize their product besides just selling growlers. Plan is to bid it out to sale. Cost is \$500 which is based on a community of our size.

Elephant's Den – They want a liquor license and want to waive 30 days and open immediately. The person was an employee of Chubby's who is taking it over. It is just for the tiki bar. Everyone was given a copy at the Special Meeting.

81, 83, 85 N. Harrison St. – person passed away and the bill came. They ask if they could pay it December 31<sup>st</sup> because of death in the family. Anything that hasn't been paid by April goes on tax rolls.

TASK – flexible spending account – Cindy Kennerup explains that Lifetime benefits have been our flexible spending representative. We were told they were going to be charging us more to handle our account. She reached out to Tom Augustini and asked if there was someone else and he stated that we only have two participants and it really isn't that much more. Tom found someone else to handle account because it is so small. We ended up with Lifetime because Bayridge dropped us because we went from 15-2 people. TASK will take us over. Only reason we need a resolution is because it is a yearly contract. We will renew each year but way the resolution was that it automatically renewed, but we would just sign the contract. Rates do increase, but they even out. They offer a debit card with their plan for the employees on this flex time benefit which means we may be able to get more employees to participate. They will educate the employees and employer. It is a tax savings for both the employee and employers. Part-timers are not eligible. Because it has been so difficult for employees to get money from Lifetime, it took so long to get money out of them that it wasn't worth it.

Amending Local Law 12 of 2017 - Change the ability to put a lien on one, two or three family unless owner occupied. This is to set a public hearing.

Rick Lindsley retired so we have a new Probationary Laborer

Chief Dodge discussion regarding COPS (Community Policing Efforts) Grant – COPS isn't funded like Safer grant. 500 police departments in NYS and last year Poughkeepsie got 4 guys and Cortland were the only ones. Our application got the highest composite score in NYS, sixth in whole country. Funding allows us to get two positions to funded at 50% for 3 years and there is a requirement to maintain those positions for one year. Projected cost is \$500,000 and COPS would give the Village \$250,000. Salary benefits only. They will start in April. Should be minimal impact on this year's budget and on the new budget there will be two hires.

**ADJOURNMENT.**

The work session was adjourned at 7:28 pm.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION #1**

A motion to enter into executive session at 7:28 pm to discuss ongoing investigation of the police department was made by Trustee King and seconded by Trustee Meaney.



Cindy Kennerup  
Village Clerk/Treasurer

CK/kc

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