

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF MEDINA HELD ON MONDAY JANUARY 24, 2024 AT THE VILLAGE CLERK'S OFFICE

Present: Mayor Michael Sidari

Trustees Marguerite Sherman, Timothy Elliott, Jessica Marciano, and Diana Baker

Clerk-Treasurer Jada Burgess, Fire Chief Matthew Jackson

Others: Tom Rivers Mike Maak  
John Parada Lorraine Limina  
Anne Misti Linda Limina  
Mark Prawel Jim Hemingway  
Matt Mosher Alana Koneski  
Jeff Pasnik

Mayor Sidari called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Mayor Sidari introduced Tim Bevins from Barton and Loguidice who called in on a conference call to discuss the Fire Station addition. Mayor Sidari said there is a need to store the new ladder truck. The height of the building was discussed noting that it would have fourteen-foot doors with a two-and-a-half-foot clearance.

Trustee Sherman said that the Village cannot afford the projected debt service based on the current proposal from Barton and Loguidice. She asked if grants could be pursued or could it be done in phases.

Mr. Bevins said that there is a portion that are renovations to the existing building and the proposal included two bays to include a portion going back nine feet by forty feet. He said he had reviewed the proposal and could remove that portion which would save approximately \$250,000.00. He also said there was 30% in contingency, equating to 1.2 million dollars. Mr. Bevins said he could not cut down on the proposal until he knew what the Village would be able to afford. Mayor Sidari proposed a cost of 3.5 million to 4 million. Mr. Bevins said a contract needed to be signed. He said it is difficult to move forward on reviewing this project without a signed contract in place.

Mayor Sidari asked Fire Chief Jackson his thoughts on reducing the cost of the building. Fire Chief Jackson said he is a taxpayer also and he will support what the board decides. Trustee Elliott said just because we are saying 4 million, does not mean we can afford 4 million. He also asked about funding resources, such as contacting our local Senators. Mr. Bevins at Barton and Loguidice said there are no funding sources out there. Mayor Sidari also asked how changing the scope of the project would affect the SEQR.

Mayor Sidari said we will give you a figure and we will look at what can be removed. Trustee Elliott said even if that meant a shell of a building and that the Board needed options. Mr. Bevins again stated that the Board needed to move forward with signing a contract with his firm in order to review the costs associated with the project.

Trustee Marciano stated that she is uncomfortable signing a contract and is very frustrated when a month ago Mr. Bevins answers were completely different when the Board asked if there were other options and Mr. Bevins had stated that the project was bare bones.

Mr. Bevins said it comes down to the size of the box. If the amenities are scaled back that will save. He said he was there to help the Village and to build what you can afford.

Mayor Sidari said the initial design was a wish list. Trustee Sherman said some of the items listed are wants over needs.

Mr. Bevins said the current design included a mechanical room, two restrooms, EMS storage, laundry room, radio room, a mezzanine, and a couple of offices. He said he could look to scale those types of items down.

Mayor Sidari asked if he was able to do that without a contract or would the Village need to sign a contract to have a new cost on the building.

Trustee Sherman said the designs that were presented were already paid for. Mr. Bevins stated they were part of a feasibility study. Trustee Sherman said she would like to discuss this more with the Board. Mayor Sidari said we could go back to bond council and crunch numbers. Mr. Bevins said he could run new numbers on square footage if you get a design together. He said the period of probable usefulness on a new building was concrete and steel.

Mr. Michael Maak asked how the proposed building would play in with the historic preservation of downtown and if there was any consideration of putting a public safety building together.

Mr. Bevins said there is no funding out there for infrastructure. Mr. Maak said Senator Gillibrand had presented Orleans County with two million dollars toward a new public safety building.

Mayor Sidari asked the Board what we want bond council to price out for us as a cost. Trustee Sherman said we need to sort our wants versus our needs. Trustee Marciano said she was under the impression that Barton and Loguidice will not start over without being paid. She said her concern is whether this firm will deal fairly with us. Trustee Baker said we should eliminate the wants versus the needs and go from there. Trustee Elliott said we need to keep these meetings going since the can had been kicked down the road.

Mr. Parada asked if the truck had already been ordered. Mayor Sidari said it was. Mr. Parada said he did not understand spending this type of money on a fire truck. He said there are other problems in this Village that need to be taken care of. He said his taxes just skyrocketed. He said he would love to have a half of a million-dollar home, but he knows he can't afford it. He said we are not Clarence or Amherst. He asked if the Board had looked into purchasing a used ladder truck rather than purchasing a new one.

Mayor Sidari said used ladder trucks were the same years as ours.

Mr. Parada said you are going to strap the taxpayers with this type of tax, and he couldn't see any of his children affording a home here. He said we need to see what we can afford. Trustee Sherman said that is why they are sitting here tonight.

Mr. Parada asked when the Village would be starting on the water and sewer. He said the infrastructure is not being taken care of. He also asked the total cost of the new ladder truck and asked if the Village was receiving any funding for it.

Trustee Elliott suggested starting at 3.5 million to four million for the cost of the building.

Clerk-Treasurer Burgess added that whatever the Board decided on the building, this would need to be reviewed by Hodgson Russ first to ensure it was still in the scope of the bond resolution that was initially passed by the Board.

Mr. Jim Hemingway asked what the cost per year for the new ladder truck was. Clerk-Treasurer Burgess stated the projected debt service would be approximately \$159,000.00 per year for twenty years. Mr. Hemingway asked what the second bay was for. He said what about doing just a single bay building.

Mayor Sidari said a new engine truck would be needed as the other truck was also aging.

Fire Chief Jackson said the second bay would be for a new engine truck as the existing truck is thirty-four years old but that it would be the same size as the existing engine truck.

Mr. Hemingway asked if you could exist with a shell of a building and put money into the existing building. He also asked how many times the current ladder truck went on calls in a year.

Fire Chief Jackson said it is used a couple hundred times a year and that it is used for more than just a fire.

Mr. Hemingway said if you can't afford a two bay, you put in one bay. He said you look for ways based on what you can afford.

Mr. Maak asked if there was a low-profile truck available. Fire Chief Jackson said there was, but it was essentially the same cost.

Ms. Alana Koneski said this type of debt scares me. We don't have the money.

Mr. Jeff Pasnik said the funds in contingency, you will go through that.

Mr. Linda Limina asked if it is possible to extend the existing building and put in a single bay. Trustee Elliott said we need to look at the current building as well and what needs to be done.

Mr. Mark Prawel asked what kind of slope is on the existing building and when it was put on.

Mr. Maak said 1998.

Mayor Sidari said he would like to have a starting point of 3 million, 3.5 million and 4 million. He asked Clerk-Treasurer Burgess to obtain projected debt service payments on those costs by the next meeting.

Mayor Sidari said there were a few items that needed to be approved by Board resolution. He said he was contacted by Eileen Banker at Assemblyman Steve Hawley's office about the occupancy tax. The Village had been attempting to have the occupancy tax approved. These funds could be used toward tourism in the Village.

Trustee Elliott asked if Senator Ortt had in fact denied the occupancy tax in the past. Mayor Sidari said he has since he does not want another tax associated with his office.

A motion was made by Trustee Baker and seconded by Trustee Elliott. The following resolution regarding an Occupancy Tax in the Village of Medina.

WHEREAS, the Village of Medina is actively seeking to better its position as a tourist destination for its own residents, the residents of the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, through these efforts, the Village of Medina has interest in becoming a tourist destination based on numerous aspects, including the Erie Canal, the Village of Medina's historic downtown corridor and agri-tourism; and

WHEREAS, the Village of Medina finds it necessary to impose an occupancy tax in the Village of Medina in order to proceed forward and continue to improve upon these goals and providing funding therefor; and

WHEREAS, it has been introduced into the New York State Assembly, Bill No. A.6671, by Assemblyman Stephen Hawley in order to authorize the Village of Medina to adopt an occupancy tax.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Village of Medina respectfully requests that both Houses of the New York State Legislature pass and adopt said legislation to be known as New York State Law Section 1202-z-4, entitled "Occupancy Tax in the Village of Medina" for the above-stated reasons.

All ayes  
Motion carried.

Mayor Sidari said that the Fire Department was looking to fill a vacancy as Firefighter Jeff Tuohey had recently retired.

Ms. Koneski asked how many firefighters there were. Fire Chief Jackson said twenty-one including himself.

Trustee Sherman said they were currently short staffed.

Fire Chief Jackson introduced Joe Kyle and said his recommendation to the Board is that he is hired to fill the position held by Jeff Tuohey.

A motion was made by Trustee Baker and seconded by Trustee Sherman. Joe Kyle is appointed to the position of Firefighter with a February 12, 2024, start date at the starting rate of a new hire with a probationary period of seventy-eight weeks.

All ayes  
Motion carried.

A motion was made by Trustee Sherman and seconded by Trustee Elliott. The meeting is adjourned into executive session at 7:10 p.m. to discuss contractual negotiations.

All ayes  
Motion carried.

A motion was made by Trustee Baker and seconded by Trustee Marciano. The meeting is moved out of executive session at 7:20 p.m.

All ayes  
Motion carried.

A motion was made by Trustee Marciano and seconded by Trustee Sherman. Mayor Sidari is authorized to sign the contract agreement between the Village of Medina and the Uniformed Professional Firefighters Local 2161.

All ayes  
Motion carried.

A motion was made by Trustee Marciano and seconded by Trustee Baker. The meeting is adjourned at 7:22 p.m.

All ayes  
Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Jada A. Burgess  
Clerk-Treasurer

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