

VESTAL TOWN BOARD WORK SESSION MINUTES
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2013 – EVENING

In Attendance: Supervisor Schaffer, Board Members Fitzgerald, Milkovich and Majewski
Absent: Councilman Marnicki

Also Attending: Comptroller Laura McKane, Fire Chief Pat McPherson, Fire Department Secretary Susan Bowen, Town Clerk Emil Bielecki and one news media reporter.

WORK SESSION - Supervisor Schaffer convened the meeting at 6:00 PM.

Fire Department 2014 Budget Review

The Board engaged Fire Chief McPherson , Administrative Assistant Sue Bowen and Comptroller Laura McKane in a lengthy line by line review of the proposed 2014 Fire Department Budget. Some of the major topics of discussion included the following:

- Comptroller McKane - the budget includes additions to capital reserves, keeping the level from last year. This is a desirable action in anticipation of future capital expenses.
- Comptroller McKane - the line for refund of prior year's taxes will probably need to be increased.
- The fire hoses have to be replaced in all fire stations. This will be done in a 5 year plan. We have a total of over 40,000 feet of hose. Of that, 16,000 feet does not comply with NFPA standards, and needs to be addressed on a priority basis.
- The purchase of a trash pump would allow the Department to resume the service of pumping out flooded basements.
- Although purchasing is done by individual stations, it is generally coordinated through the Administrative Secretary.
- The purchase of a Port-A-Count machine will allow us to internally test the safety of the seals on the face masks and keep our records updated.
- The ceiling mounted projectors are used for training in each station.
- Old computer equipment is returned back to the IT Department.
- The roof replacement at Station 3 is being done in sections.
- Vehicle maintenance costs keep rising and represent an ongoing challenge to the Department.
- The camera system at Station 1 is needed to address some ongoing security issues.
- The Department is exploring the merits of contracting for the cleaning of the Fire Stations but is mindful of the Town employee now doing the work.
- To save money, the Department will stone and oil some of the larger parking lots rather than paving them.
- Switching to Mirabido for the purchase of fuel has resulted in significant savings and has improved tracking.
- The Fred Singer Training Site requires various repairs to make it fully useable. As the leases to use the facility are renewed, they will be increased to help cover the cost of the needed repairs.
- The reduced required contribution for funding of LOSAP has been applied to the capital reserve fund.
- Comptroller McKane – we are looking at a leasing option for replacing some of the equipment. She is waiting for a proposal to do an analysis.
- The vehicle maintenance line is going over budget and will require the transfers from other unused lines.

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Councilmen Majewski and Milkovich asked numerous questions about the purchasing practices of the Fire Department with an eye toward centralizing the functions and coordinating purchases with other departments.

Councilman Milkovich noted that the Department should migrate toward a portable desktop projector to replace the ceiling units in the Stations.

Supervisor Schafer stated that the Fire Department should work closely with the IT Department as it explores less expensive options for the Town.

Several Council members indicated an interest in redeploying the Town's janitor to other tasks if the Fire Department contracts with an outside vendor for the cleaning services.

The Work Session was adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Emil Bielecki, Town Clerk