

Village of Waterloo

PUBLIC HEARING

8/26/2020

A Public Hearing was held on Wednesday, 8/26/2020, at 6pm at the WVFD. This public hearing was held jointly with the Town of Waterloo.

Attending the public hearing from the Village of Waterloo were the Honorable Mayor O'Connor, Trustee Suffredini, Trustee Marquart, Trustee Butlak, and Trustee Boise.

Mayor O'Connor called the Public Hearing Meeting to order at 6:02pm.

Mayor O'Connor stated that the purpose of the public hearing was to inform the public of the consideration by the Village of Waterloo and the Town of Waterloo to form a joint fire district to include all territory situated in the Town of Waterloo Fire Protection District and the entire limits of the Village of Waterloo, with all territory being contiguous, and to hear all persons interested in the establishment of such a joint fire district.

Mayor O'Connor then introduced Brad Pinsky from the Pinsky Law Firm to make a presentation to the public on the joint fire district organizational structure as an alternative to the present Village of Waterloo controlled Waterloo Volunteer Fire Department (WVFD). Currently, the Village of Waterloo makes all financial decisions for the WVFD as part of its annual budgetary process, without any voting participation by the town fire protection districts to which it provides fire protection services, per an inter-municipal agreement. This organizational structure requires the Village to provide all capital financing for the fire protection equipment, including buildings and fire trucks. When facing such capital costs, the Village must make its decisions as part of its fiscal year budgeting process, and then request town funding (inter-municipal agreement), which is on a calendar year budgetary process (after the fact).

Mr. Pinsky's presentation included two attributes for the alternative organizational structure of a joint fire district. First, that it would allow for more public input (representation) from all parties in the approval of all significant capital costs, as well as the overall budgetary process. Second, the property tax rate for all tax payers within the joint fire district would be equalized and proportional to the individual municipality's percentage of its property tax assessment included within the boundaries of the joint fire district.

There were many comments made by the public relating to how the joint fire district would be created, such as how the assets and liabilities of the WVFD would be transferred to a joint fire district, what was the amount of liabilities to transfer, would the Village look to recover any costs of the assets to be transferred, what would happen to the property tax rates to the Village and to the Town.

Mr. Pinsky reiterated that the joint fire district has spending limitations, including that, generally, it cannot budget more than \$1,000 for every million of taxable assessed value. He then offered to continue with any individual discussions with the public upon the conclusion of his presentation.

Mayor O'Connor inquired if there were any more public questions or comments. None were made. Therefore, Mayor O'Connor stated that this concludes the joint public hearing.

Motion by Trustee Suffredini, seconded by Trustee Marquart to close the Village public hearing. All voted aye, carried. The Village public hearing was adjourned at 7:28pm.

Mayor O'Connor stated that there would be a brief break, and then the Village would consider a special board meeting to take action on the proposed joint fire district.

Mayor O'Connor called a special board meeting to order at 7:46pm. Present were the Honorable Mayor O'Connor, Trustee Suffredini, Trustee Marquart, Trustee Butlak, and Trustee Boise. Mayor O'Connor stated that the purpose of the special board meeting was to consider taking action on the proposed

joint fire district with the Town of Waterloo now that the required public hearing had been properly completed and adjourned.

Motion by Trustee Marquart, seconded by Trustee Suffredini to adopt the resolution for a 1 town and 1 village joint fire district with elected commissioners. All voted aye, carried.

The Town of Waterloo tabled its decision on this resolution, pending more desired financial information. However, it did vote to proceed with its authorization to start the 35 day process to dissolve the existing fire protection district.

The Village's motion to proceed is contingent upon the Town of Waterloo's adoption of the fire district resolution. This action is subject to a permissive referendum.

Motion by Trustee Suffredini, seconded by Trustee Boise to adjourn the special board meeting. All present voted aye, carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:55pm.

Respectfully submitted by

Donald Northrup

Village Clerk