

A joint meeting of the Town of Moreau Town Board and the South Glens Falls Village Board of Trustees was held on April 8, 2009 in the Village Municipal Center, 46 Saratoga Avenue, South Glens Falls, New York, for the purpose of discussing Firemen's pensions.

The meeting commenced at 5:00 p.m.

Village Board of Trustees Present:

Edward LaFave	Trustee
Tim Carota	Trustee
Bill Hayes	Trustee
Frank Jones	Trustee
Keith Donohue	Mayor

Village Board of Trustees Absent:

None

Town Board Members Present:

Bob Prendergast	Councilman
Gina LeClair	Councilwoman
Tom Cumm	Councilman
Preston Jenkins	Supervisor

Town Board Members Absent:

Todd Kusnierz	Councilman
---------------	------------

Also Present: Jeanne Fleury, Town Clerk; Representing the South Glens Falls Fire Company were Steven Black, Jeff Saunders, President and Peter Corlew, Fire Chief

Mayor Donohue stated that there hasn't been a meeting in a while on this topic and with the new administration in the Village he thought it was a good idea to meet.

Supervisor Jenkins stated that the previous Board had a couple of issues concerning the subject of pensions for Firemen and LOSAP. One was the fact that the Village owns the Fire Station #1 in the Village and one fire truck and the Town funds items for the Fire Company through a budget process.

The second issue was over the creation of a Fire District and another taxing authority. He compared it to the Library District and how we are paying three times as much over the years.

Mayor Donohue recalled how the attorneys began to look into the Fire District issue.

Steven Black stated the purpose of LOSAP (Length of Service Award Program) was to increase and retain membership in fire companies. This is a serious problem for them. The way to get started with LOSAP is under the auspices of the Village who would have to sponsor LOSAP. The fear is that if the Town pulls out the Village would be stuck with it. The second possibility that was considered was for the two districts to merge and remain a Fire Protection District. They found out they can't do this under municipal law.

A joint meeting of the Town of Moreau Town Board and the South Glens Falls Village Board of Trustees was held on April 8, 2009 in the Village Municipal Center, 46 Saratoga Avenue, South Glens Falls, New York, for the purpose of discussing Firemen's pensions.

The third option is to form a Fire District and it would be operated by elected or appointed commissioners and this is the only way in their opinion to do it. They are fearful that a year from now they are going to have a problem responding to fire calls when the alarm goes off.

Supervisor Jenkins stated another possibility is to liquidate the current structure and form a new entity. The Town's attorney is checking into this.

Trustee Hayes stated they would be combining a municipal system and a private system.

Steven Black stated that in the incorporation papers the Village was the sponsoring agency. The Town can only commit for five years out.

Steven Black asked if unofficially the Town Board was saying that they were interested in discontinuing the way the Fire Company is set up now and form a Fire Protection District combining the Town & Village.

Supervisor Jenkins said basically. The Village owns the Fire Station in the Village and a fire truck and they also pay into the Town general fund for fire service. The Town doesn't want to give up control, however.

Steven Black asked what would happen to the Fire Station in the Village and the fire truck the Village owns if they formed a Fire Protection District and there was a contractual arrangement.

Councilman Cumm asked who would control the budget in that instance.

Steve Black stated there would be a contract with the Fire Protection District and how the Town negotiates it is up to them.

Councilman Prendergast stated they would negotiate with the Town and leave the Village out of it.

Supervisor Jenkins stated it would be the easier way. The building would be taken over by the Fire Protection District.

Trustee LaFave said there could be a lease agreement.

Steven Black said the Town would have to agree to go to referendum on LOSAP.

Trustee Jones expressed concern over the Village not having any representation if they went this route.

Supervisor Jenkins said as an elected official he represents the Village too. It is a general fund issue and the Village pays into the general fund.

Mayor Donohue asked if the members of the Fire Company would no longer come before the Village Board and Steven Black said this was correct they would go before the Town Board.

A joint meeting of the Town of Moreau Town Board and the South Glens Falls Village Board of Trustees was held on April 8, 2009 in the Village Municipal Center, 46 Saratoga Avenue, South Glens Falls, New York, for the purpose of discussing Firemen's pensions.

Trustee Hayes said the Village tax rate would go down. They wouldn't have a truck to buy anymore and a mortgage on a building.

Mayor Donohue asked Steven Black if they would still need the Fire Station in the Village.

Steven Black said yes, they can't operate out of one building and service the Village adequately.

Councilman Cumm asked if the Fire Company would have to come before the Town Board for budget purposes and if they would do it the same way as with the squad. The Town Board wouldn't totally fund the Fire Company right?

Steven Black said the Town could do it that way.

Trustee Hayes said it would be like dealing with department heads at budget time.

Councilman Prendergast asked how many members there were in the Fire Company and the answer was 62 members.

Steven Black said they lost 15-20 last year. He said it isn't the number rather the quality and what are we going to do to retain them.

Councilman Prendergast said the reason he asked was if they go this route then the number will have to be nailed down more closely for budgetary reasons.

Councilman Cumm added that there may be 62 members, but look at the number of calls and who responds. Not all are active.

Peter Corlew said that one of the criteria of LOSAP is that members have to show involvement to participate in LOSAP.

Mayor Donohue said he wanted to make sure that the Village was involved in setting up the LOSAP program.

Mayor Donohue asked if their next step was to approach their attorneys.

Supervisor Jenkins stated that they needed to talk to the attorneys again about liquidating one and forming another.

Steven Black asked the two Boards to facilitate a meeting of the attorneys when the Town's attorney returns from vacation and he asked that the Mayor and Supervisor sit in on the meeting and one Fire Company representative. They would have to negotiate the building and fire truck.

Supervisor Jenkins said public safety is their only concern, the rest is paperwork.

Steven Black said he would contact the Fire Company's attorney and facilitate a meeting for late April or early May.

Steven Black thanks the Boards for their time.

A joint meeting of the Town of Moreau Town Board and the South Glens Falls Village Board of Trustees was held on April 8, 2009 in the Village Municipal Center, 46 Saratoga Avenue, South Glens Falls, New York, for the purpose of discussing Firemen's pensions.

Brief discussion followed on the Town's Dog Control Officer and the possibility of shared services with the Village of South Glens Falls.

The Joint Meeting was concluded at 5:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne Fleury
Town Clerk