

A public hearing was held by the Town Board of the Town of Moreau on December 29, 2014 in the Town of Moreau Municipal Building located at 351 Reynolds Road, Moreau, New York, for the purpose of hearing all interested persons for or against the proposed contract with the Moreau Emergency Squad, Inc.

The Deputy Supervisor called the public hearing to order at 7:30 p.m.

Town Board Members Present

Robert J. Vittengl, Jr.	Councilman
Bob Prendergast	Councilman
Todd Kusnierz	Councilman

Town Board Members Absent

Gina LeClair	Councilwoman
Preston L. Jenkins, Jr.	Supervisor

Also Present: Leeann McCabe, Town Clerk; and the following Town Residents and Members of the South Glens Falls Fire Co. and Moreau Emergency Squad, Jon Pease, Pete Lemery, Mike Shaver, Ron Quinn, Jr., Steve VanGuilder, Helen Glenn, Joshua Jacobs and J. Bonn.

Deputy Supervisor Vittengl welcomed everyone to the Public Hearing.

The following Notice of Public Hearing appeared as a legal ad in the legal ad section of the Post Star Newspaper as follows:

TOWN OF MOREAU

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 184 of the Town Law and Section 122-b of the General Municipal Law, that the Town Board of the Town of Moreau shall conduct a Public Hearing at the Moreau Town Hall, 351 Reynolds Road, Moreau, New York on December 29, 2014 at 7:30 p.m. for the purpose of receiving public comment on a proposed contract between the Town of Moreau and the Moreau Emergency Squad, Inc. Under the proposed agreement, the Moreau Emergency Squad, Inc. will furnish emergency and general ambulance service within the Town during calendar year 2015. The funds to be paid by the Town of Moreau to the Moreau Emergency Squad, Inc. for these services is **TWO HUNDRED TWELVE THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED FORTY-TWO and 00/100 Dollars (\$212,242.00)**. In addition, the Moreau Emergency Squad, Inc., on behalf of the Town, will charge and collect fees, established by the Town Board for ambulance services in the Town. The Moreau Emergency Squad, Inc. will be solely responsible for billing and collection of the fees. The fees, as property of the Town of Moreau, will be deposited into the general fund of the Town of Moreau and, periodically, an equivalent amount of said fees deposited will be returned by the Town of Moreau to the Emergency Squad

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for additional compensation for providing ambulance services in the Town of Moreau. A copy of the proposed contract is available at the office of the Moreau Town Clerk located at the Moreau Town Hall.

Published: December 17, 2014

Leeann McCabe, Town Clerk
Town of Moreau

377930

Deputy Supervisor Vittengl asked if there were any comments to be made from the public regarding the Moreau Emergency Squad contract. Steve VanGuilder stated that his title is now, Executive Director. There are a couple places in the contract that this would need to be changed. Councilman Kusnierz asked if they no longer have a President and Steve replied that was correct. Steve also stated that they no longer have an E-Board and that on page 6, the AKA E-Board should be removed and it should read Board of Directors.

A letter from Councilwoman LeClair, who couldn't attend the hearing was read aloud by the Town Clerk as follows:

Our contract with the squad should state that that the squad should bring all requested documents to the Town within 1 week of our written request. The records will be kept secure at all times while in our possession. (just as our personnel records are kept) We should be allowed a minimum of 3 weeks to review the records. They delayed us for many months last year before showing us a small portion of what we had requested. (from Dec. 2013 to early fall of 2014)

At the first meeting they did not have the papers that we had requested. Instead they answered questions. They had their attorney, accountant and several squad members in attendance at this meeting and at the second meeting.

At the second meeting they did not have most of the papers we had requested. The squad had received this list in ample time to have everything ready for us. Steve Vanguilder followed along from his copy of the list of items we had requested from them as I noted each request that they had not complied with. He did not disagree with me at any time. Verification of the timing and items requested are available in the Fran's office.

When we visited for the third time, Bob V. found that the squad had whited out expenses on several credit card bills. Their explanation was that those amounts were paid with Northumberland money and "they did not care how the squad spends their money." That has been their contention for as long as I can remember. That statement is wrong.

I spoke to the supervisor in Northumberland and he was quite displeased to hear that the squad would say such a thing. Northumberland does **definitely** care how the squad spends the money they give them. He stated that he relied on Harry and now Preston to confirm that the money Northumberland gave the squad was used in a fiscally responsible manner.

If the squad is not spending the money from Northumberland on necessities, that leaves the citizens of Moreau being asked to pay for more overhead expenses than we might be asked for otherwise. That is wrong.

Fran questioned \$17,000 that was removed from a letter drive fund. We were told that money was withdrawn and spent on "misc. expenses" and that they were going to try to put it back because the letter drive was for a specific piece of equipment. None of it had been replaced as of the last date we were there. This concerns me. The Squad is moving towards enlarging their building but they cannot meet their bills without pulling money out of a letter drive account.

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I had requested copies of records showing the training members received and the receipts and bills for those expenses as well as where and how they met the required training. We were shown a few copies of certificates that various members had received for a class they had taken, over the past 30 years. There was no other information available and we were told they had no other records because each member had a folder and they were individually responsible to keep their training current and maintain that folder. They stated that the squad does not keep squad records for such information. I am not sure how they figure this into their budget or account for the money as it is spent. I do not understand how they know all requirements are met by all responders without having the records available to view without going through each members folders. They stated they had nothing like that to show us. I checked with the State and the squad participates in the CME New York State training program which requires they keep up to date records for their training. The state can come into the squad at any time and require those records. Where were those records?

I feel that we were delayed at each step of the way until we were close to the payment period and then there was pressure to get it done or the squad would not be able to pay their bills.

This is not the way to handle an audit. It is not a true or clear audit. It is impossible to be able to take the time we need to review and understand the records at a meeting such as any of the three we had at the Squad building. It is not an audit when we cannot take our time review the papers that we requested and then ask questions. We need to be able to review them at our pace in Town Hall. We need someone such as the auditor Queensbury hires to review the records. This is a person experienced in the specific types of records that EMS services should be maintaining as well as typical expenses. The person who does the audits for Queensbury is available to meet with the Board and explain what she does for Queensbury.

There should be wording in the contract that allows us to audit the Squad in the same way as Queensbury audits their squads and fire department. I feel this expense should be taken from the money that we have designated for the squad. Each Board member has been given a copy of the contracts that Queensbury has with their emergency services.

When we notify the Squad that we want to review some or all of their records they should deliver them to our location allowing sufficient time for us to be able to meet their payment dates. If the squad delays us and does not provide us with the requested paperwork, as they did this past year, there should be a forfeiture of an amount of funds equal to that period's payment.

Deputy Supervisor Vittengl asked if there were any Town Board comments.

Councilman Kusnierz pointed out another correction of E-Board to Board of Directors on page 7 of the contract. Councilman Prendergast pointed out on page 5 where the same changes should be made.

Steve VanGuilder stated that he felt the Squad negotiated in good faith. He was under the assumption that everything was good.

Deputy Supervisor Vittengl stated that we've come a long way in the spirit of communications. He stated that if we keep moving forward with that spirit, it will be good for everybody.

A motion was made by Councilman Kusnierz and seconded by Councilman Prendergast to close both Public Hearings at 7:40 p.m.

Roll call vote resulted as follows:

Councilwoman LeClair	Absent
Councilman Kusnierz	Yes
Councilman Vittengl	Yes
Councilman Prendergast	Yes
Supervisor Jenkins	Absent

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Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Leeann McCabe
Town Clerk