

SPECIAL MEETING, SEPTEMBER 15, 2022 at the Saranac Fire District at 6:00 pm.

Present: Village of Dannemora: Mayor Scholl, Board Trustees Mullady, Bennett, Akin, Deputy Clerk Kelli Bingel; Saranac Fire District Commissioners Todd Perry, Mike Perry, Nancy Clancy, Sean Emerson

Mayor Scholl began requested to know if Saranac was ready for the upcoming transition of EMS.

Mayor Scholl distributed the 2021-22 and 2022-23 **budget and rate sheets for EMS**. Kelli Bingel also gave the Commissioners a copy of the most recent Medex billing sheets. Discussion was held regarding there being no major differences, although there were changes in assessed valuation. Tr. Bennett explained the pay rates were increased after investigating the rates throughout the County and finding we were on the low end. We now have more paramedics more in the program. Mayor Scholl commented our staff contains skilled people which will help taxpayers in the long run. All were in agreement. Mayor Scholl explained that although increased wages brought up the overall cost of the program, there was enough fund balance to use to help offset the increase. Fund balance is secure enough to use it to move forward and better the program without increasing the price per thousand to the taxpayers and hopefully will continue in future years.

Todd Perry inquired as to the **projected call volume** with a response that projection is around 50 more calls than last year. Saranac's volume is slightly higher due to a larger coverage area. Mutual aid to Lyon Mountain with no payment has decreased compared with previous years. Mike Perry asked about the return on 'no transport/life assist' calls. All discussed the basic charge that covers those calls and the fact that insurance companies always decrease what is paid compared to what is billed.

Discussion was also held on the following regarding the budget:

- NYS retirement costs decreased this year
- Insurance costs are down a little due to paying for fewer people
- Employee retention has increased, and we have good crews

Nancy Clancy inquired about **drivers**. She was informed that Eric has filled in a few times but there are fewer holes in the schedule compared to the past. Mike Perry asked when the new ambulance would be in service. Mayor Scholl responded there are new numbers – 451 and 452 – and it will be in service as soon it is stocked. All outstanding items have been received. Discussed benefits of having 4-wheel drive on the ambulance.

Mayor Scholl inquired which ambulance will be used while in Saranac and was told it will be 317. He asked if the **ambulance and facilities are prepared**, and everything is up to date and ready to go. Nancy said it should be ready, as Keri was working on it prior to going on vacation. Norm and Bobbie Jo will come down next week to make sure all is ready. Mayor Scholl inquired on the use of the old office upstairs. Nancy Clancy said it is now being used as a storeroom. Todd Perry elaborated that issues with having to stay in the room should be alleviated. He also reiterated the EMTs should have access to all areas of the building, as they are employees. They shouldn't be questioned on using kitchens, bathrooms, etc., even if other functions are going on.

Scheduling of the building is still an issue – Nancy cannot even get the schedule from their people. Mike said they could accommodate but will still have to go through the issue of second means of egress. Todd said this was a large cost in the budget which is why they renovated downstairs. Judy said we want to make the transition smooth with better communication.

Village Board is discussing **changes in the contract** – numbers will not change from what is in front of them, but other changes will be reviewed at the next board meeting. The contract will be provided within two weeks. Nancy asked to be contacted when the contract is ready. SFD is waiting for insurance, workers compensation figures. SFD is based on town population and not payroll. SFD budget is not approved by Town. They give the Town a number and Town must pay from that – no discussion.

Mayor Scholl requested the signed contract be returned to the Village Office sooner it is not at the last minute.

Todd Perry said the **delay last year** was due to increased figures and that affected tax cap. Town budget and SFD budgets are totally separate. Town cannot increase or decrease budget – they are only collectors and pass the money through to SFD. Mayor Scholl said the Village has no issue with receiving money from the Town of Dannemora. Nancy Clancy asked if Norm has same authority as Bobbie Jo – when she is not available. Village Board members indicated he is very good and supported him.

Discussion was held regarding **Mutual Aid** and who should be first to respond. This is currently up to dispatch but can be requested by the paid crew responding to call. SFD feels paid crew should call for whomever is appropriate based on where they are – Lyon Mountain if the call is above Redford toward Standard vs. Morrisonville. Mayor Scholl also mentioned the ability to split the crew. Status of Lyon Mountain was discussed with Trustee Bennett saying the information was in the newspaper.

Shared Services and a county-wide EMS system were discussed. Todd voiced his opinion that the EMS system is broken state-wide. Mayor Scholl attended a shared services meeting and the county is not interested due to the existence of so many private entities. Our program is the only municipal run program in the county.

The special meeting was adjourned at 6:30 and the Saranac Fire Commissioners departed.

Mayor Scholl made the motion to **appoint Tony Trombley as Laborer** at \$16.00 per hour pending insurance approval and background check with a start date to be determined. Motion seconded by Trustee Akin and all were in favor. Motion carried.

Ana Ramella had received a bill from EMS. Her insurance carrier only allowed a portion of the large bill. She is asking that the Village accept her payment of the remaining balance allowed by the insurance company. Trustee Akin introduced **Resolution 22-09-15-01 to accept \$509.32 from Ana Ramella to complete payment of her EMS invoice.** Mayor Scholl – yes; Bennett – yes; Mullady – yes; Akin – yes. Resolution carried.

Discussion was held regarding the **purchase of a demolition saw**. Larry has found a good deal from Huskvarna for \$1570. More information will be brought to the next board meeting.

Trustee Bennett brought up that our **EMS crew should be attending soccer games** as well as football games. There are more head injuries at those types of games, and it will give us a more public presence.

The **fire and EMS contracts for Dannemora** should be prepared next week along with forwarding the dog park lease to the Town.

Trustee Bennett made the motion to adjourn at 6:44, seconded by Trustee Akin. All in favor, motion carried.