

At 5:00 p.m. Supervisor Milner called to order a public hearing located at the Town Hall, 18 State Street, Brockport, New York on December 22, 2010. The purpose of the public hearing was to consider contracting with Monroe Medi-Trans, Inc., d/b/a Monroe Ambulance for the furnishing of ambulance service to the Sweden Fire Protection District in the Town of Sweden.

Town Board members present were Supervisor John H. Milner, Councilperson Rob Carges, Councilperson Patricia Connors, Councilperson Rebecca Donohue and Councilperson Michael Myers. Also present were Finance Director Leisa Strabel, Town Attorney Jim Bell, Fire Marshal Charles Sanford and Town Clerk Karen M. Sweeting.

Visitors present were Thomas Mangan, Bernie LoBracco, Jo Matela, Robin Waller, Harry Snyder, David Markham, Joan and Jim Hamlin, Bill Andrews, Paul Drake, Manmadharao Kasaraneni, Mike Henry, Lucas VanDervort, Paul Nau, Nate Coons, Chris Penny, Scott Crosier, Pam Ketchum, Byron Green, Anna Melson, David Rice and Kristina Gabalski from the Suburban News.

Supervisor Milner began by explaining what the Town Board wanted to achieve by contracting with Monroe Ambulance. He discussed the history of fire and ambulance service between the towns of Sweden, Clarkson and the Village of Brockport. Mr. Milner stated that several years ago the ambulance service changed from a property tax funded operation to a user funded operation and any profits from the third party billing would be used to decrease the cost of fire protection for the taxpayers of each community. Unfortunately, the Village has refused to do this. Mr. Milner added that both the Sweden and Clarkson boards felt that this was unfair to our taxpayers. The Sweden and Clarkson Town Boards feel it is time to contract with Monroe Ambulance as well as maintaining its contract with Brockport Ambulance as an additional responder.

Supervisor Milner asked Town Clerk Karen Sweeting to read the legal notice published in the Town newspaper. Notice was read.

Supervisor Milner asked if there were any comments.

Resident Thomas Mangan spoke against the proposed contract with Monroe Ambulance.

Resident Jo Matela explained that the Brockport Ambulance Service was set up as a self-funding entity so that no tax dollars were necessary for training, salaries and equipment. Mrs. Matela felt that the services and money were handled properly as set by the state comptroller's office.

Brockport Fire Department EMS Chief Lucas VanDervort stated he hoped the Town Board realized the consequences of this action. Mr. VanDervort explained the billing differences between Brockport Ambulance and Monroe Ambulance and the soft-billing policies of the Brockport Ambulance for those that can not afford the service. Mr. VanDervort explained call volume and response times for Brockport Ambulance.

Resident David Markham inquired of the Town Board why they proposed to "privatize" an exceptional government service. There is no cost to the taxpayer and Mr. Markham does not see any benefit of contracting with Monroe Ambulance. He asked that the Town Board reconsider.

Resident Robin Waller also was against contracting with Monroe Ambulance and would like to see the board reconsider.

Resident Pam Ketchum was concerned with the details of the contract and wanted to know the benefit to the residents and the village. Mrs. Ketchum was asking that more information be made available to residents before a decision was made. She is interested in a list of pros and cons as to how the change may affect the residents.

Resident Manmadharao Kasaraneni stated he had more questions after attending the public hearing and was also concerned with the benefit to the residents of Sweden. He would like more information before he can make informed comments.

Deputy Brockport Fire Chief Mike Henry felt that the community would lose the ambulance service if it could not be supported.

Ambulance member Byron Green stated he did not believe this plan was good and compared hard-billing and soft-billing of each service.

Ambulance member Anna Melson asked that the board look into other options.

No other comments were made. The public hearing was closed at 6:35 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen M. Sweeting
Town Clerk