

A special joint meeting with the Town of Sweden, Town of Clarkson and Village of Brockport was held at the Town Hall, 18 State Street, Brockport, New York, on Tuesday, May 10, 2011.

Sweden Town Board members present were Supervisor John Milner, Councilperson Rob Carges, Councilperson Patricia Connors, Councilperson Michael Myers and Councilperson Rebecca Donohue. Clarkson Town Board members present were Supervisor Paul Kimball, Councilperson Sheldon Meyers, Councilperson Christa Filipowicz, Councilperson Allan Hoy and Councilperson Patrick Didas. Village of Brockport trustees present were Mayor Maria C. Castaneda and Trustee Daniel Kuhn. Also present were special counsel, Attorney Ray DiRaddo, Sweden Attorney Jim Bell, Village Attorney David F. Mayer, Sweden Finance Director Leisa Strabel, Clarkson Town Clerk Sharon Mattison and Sweden Town Clerk Karen Sweeting.

Visitors present were Julie and Frank Lapinski, Harold Mundy, Merv Beaney, Allan Smith, Bernie LoBracco, Jim and Joan Hamlin, Val Ciciotti, Don Roberts, Mary Jo Nayman and Kristina Gabalski from Suburban News. Others were present but did not sign in.

Supervisor Milner called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and asked everyone present to say the Pledge to the Flag. Introductions were made and the meeting was turned over to Clarkson Supervisor Paul Kimball.

Supervisor Kimball announced that neither town received formal notification from the Village of Brockport but understood that the Village has declined to join the towns in forming a joint fire district. Mr. Kimball confirmed this with Mayor Castaneda and Trustee Kuhn. Mr. Kimball stated that the towns of Clarkson and Sweden must move forward. Discussion of such is permissible for executive session.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Clarkson Councilperson Hoy made a motion that was seconded by Sweden Councilperson Connors to go into executive session at 6:02 p.m. All voted in favor of the motion. Motion adopted.

No action taken.

Councilperson Filipowicz made a motion that was seconded by Councilperson Connors to leave executive session and return to the regular meeting at 6:38 p.m. All voted in favor of the motion. Motion adopted.

Clarkson Supervisor Kimball explained the historical perspective of this decision. From the early 1970s to 2003 there was a surplus or a deficit each year in the fire budget. That surplus of deficit was reconciled in the next year's budget with the fire budget retaining a small amount of cash on hand for operating purposes. In the mid 1990s there was an accrued surplus of \$160-170,000. This surplus was returned to the district and taxpayers.

In July of 2009 the towns were made aware of a very large surplus balance over a five year period. The Village of Brockport entered into an agreement with the towns of Sweden and Clarkson last year to return \$175,000 of that surplus to the fire department truck reserve in five annual payments of \$35,000 each.

In addition, the third party billing for the ambulance service surplus funds should be used to fund ambulance expenses. The Village has used \$640,000 of those funds for other items in the village budget. The Village has almost no money to replace its current ambulance fleet. The

Towns have asked the Village to return the third party ambulance billing surplus to an ambulance reserve. The Village has said no.

The Village under spent the 2010 fire budget by approximately \$110,000. The Village has no intention of using that money for fire service or returning it to the taxpayers who paid it as a fire tax levy.

Mr. Kimball explained for the above reasons, the towns decided to move forward exploring alternatives to the type of fire contract we have had in the past with the Village. The taxpayers deserve responsible service for a responsible amount of money.

ADJOURNMENT

Clarkson Councilperson Al Hoy moved to adjourn the May 10, 2011 special joint meeting with the Town of Sweden, Town of Clarkson and Village of Brockport at 6:42 p.m. Sweden Councilperson Pat Connors seconded the motion. All voted in favor of the motion. Motion adopted.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen M. Sweeting
Sweden Town Clerk