

A joint meeting with the Town of Sweden and Town of Clarkson was held at the Clarkson Town Court, 3655 Lake Road, Clarkson, New York, on Tuesday, May 24, 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. Also present were special counsel, Attorney Ray DiRaddo, Clarkson Attorney Richard Olson, Sweden Finance Director Leisa Strabel and Sweden Town Clerk Karen Sweeting.

Visitors present were Jim and Joan Hamlin, Christine Hamlin, Karen Zok, Teena Baxter, John Rombaut, Harold Mundy, Margay Blackman, Pete Hare, Ann Butler, Maria C. Castaneda, Norm GianCursio, Mary Beth Lovejoy, Rhett King, Chris VanDeMark, Don Roberts, Bethany Centrone, Debbie Finkle, Helen Maier, Mary Jo Nayman, Tim Rombaut and Kristina Gabalski from Suburban News. Others were present but did not sign in.

Supervisor Kimball called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and asked everyone present to say the Pledge to the Flag.

Supervisor Kimball turned the meeting over to special counsel, Attorney Ray DiRaddo. Resolutions have been found in both Towns of Sweden and Clarkson that confirm previous creations of fire protection districts. The Town of Sweden created a fire protection district in 1933 and the Town of Clarkson created a fire protection district in 1955. The boards were acting on the assumption that fire equipment could not be purchased. The laws changed in the late 1980s early 1990s that now permits the towns to purchase the equipment necessary for fire service.

Mr. DiRaddo explained that by moving forward with their existing fire protection districts, it would not be an additional level of government, but gives the boards the opportunity to act as a board of fire commissioners. This method of fire service is common in New York State. The Town of Irondequoit has five (5) fire districts. The Town Board acts on behalf of the Seabreeze Protection District. This is similar to what the Towns of Sweden and Clarkson are considering.

Clarkson Councilperson Hoy is part of a committee that has been studying the financial impact and budgetary concerns of the proposed formation over the past several weeks. The committee has determined cost estimates to "outfit" the fire department, start up costs and budget figures for ongoing operations including education, training, maintenance and utilities. The committee determines that the costs are within what the towns are currently paying. Several options have been explored using refurbished equipment, used equipment and lease options.

Sweden Councilperson Carges stated that the Town of Sweden offers to contribute the funds for a fire station in Sweden.

Clarkson Councilperson Meyers understood that the buildings and equipment have been addressed but what about manpower/staffing. Both Towns are happy with the service from the current Brockport Fire Department. Clarkson Supervisor Kimball said that the legality of volunteers serving both is being addressed.

Clarkson Supervisor Kimball stated that the boards currently have two working committees that will meet to obtain hard facts so the issue can move forward.

ADJOURNMENT

Clarkson Councilperson Allan Hoy moved to adjourn the May 24, 2011 joint meeting with the Town of Sweden and Town of Clarkson at 6:10 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