

VILLAGE OF MOUNT MORRIS
SPECIAL MEETING
July 29, 2019 6:00 PM

The special meeting of the Village Board of the Village of Mount Morris, County of Livingston and the State of New York was held at 1 Murray Drive Building One, Mount Morris, New York on the 29th the day of July 2019.

PRESENT: Frank Provo	Mayor
Joseph Rawleigh	Trustee
Joel Mike	Trustee
Rebecca Crocker	Trustee
Lisa Torcello	Village Clerk/Treasurer
Amanda Coniglio	Deputy Clerk/Treasurer

Absent: Geoff Pagano, Trustee

Town Board Members:

Charles DiPasquale	Town Supervisor
Dave DiSalvo	Deputy Town Supervisor
Don Huff	Councilman
Nate Guzzardi	Councilman
Christie Murphy	Town Clerk

Absent: Chelsey Woodworth

ALSO PRESENT: Dave Garwood, Bill D'Angelo, Sam Cipriano, Dana Regatuso, Trevor Martin, Stephanie Gehrig, Lowell Dennison, Dean & Wilma Smith, Bob Ossont, Colleen & Ken Frank, Carol & George Foote, Ann Hunt, Judy Claprood, Eugene Gregg, George Bellanca, Ken Steen, Rebecca Jones, Jennifer Meckfessel, Stephen Morrison, Bob Brill.

Mayor Provo called the meeting to order and led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Provo stated that this a joint Public Hearing with the Town of Mount Morris and The Village of Mount Morris regarding forming a joint fire district for the purpose of consolidating fire protection and rescue services.

Mayor Provo opened the Public Hearing

Bob Ossont- Mr. Ossont stated that a Fire District is needed ASAP and this has been going on for the last 27 yrs. The equipment is much bigger and needs bigger space. Over the years nothing has changed, and we need to look outside the box. We need a district to protect the community better and make it safe. Mr. Ossont stated that the Village can't handle a fire department anymore.

Bill D'Angelo- Wants this to go to a permissive referendum. He stated that the fire dept. is funding the lawyer for this. The Village is gambling with the fire dept money and if people don't want the district then people could go out and get the signatures needed to have a mandatory referendum and that is why the Village should just go with the permissive referendum instead of mandatory. Over the course of six years the town paid \$75,000, but this year the town only paid \$45,000. The last time the fire department received a new truck was 1992 and most of the trucks have been donated or purchased from each individually department. If the board would go with permissive this would speed it up and then the fire department would be able to fight fires and save their money.

Trustee Mike asked Mr. D'Angelo if the Fire Department wanted the Village Board to change their vote he stated, Mr. D'Angelo stated he did.
Attorney Garwood explained the difference between a permissive and mandatory referendum.

Steve Morrison- Asked if the both the boards would make this a permissive referendum. Equipment is very bad; trucks have broken down and individuals are paying for material to fix the equipment themselves. He stated that they should try to fight a fire and see what they go through and see what it is like. Again, he asked the boards to go with a permissive referendum and if the people want a mandatory referendum then they could get the required signatures.

Bob Brill- He has really conflicted on this topic. He stated that the Fire Department really needs a new fire hall and new equipment but would really like to know why we are here. He wants to know what the benefit would be to go to a district. He is very concerned why the boards opened discussion and how we would be paying for it with our tax base. Stating that there are a lot of people on fixed income and how people could have another tax? We need to start cutting back on things and instead of help adding things to our taxes. He stated that there isn't a lot of information out there for the people to know about this and let the people vote.

Fire Chief Dana Regatuso- Stated that he is very disappointed that there aren't more people here. The Equipment is very old and falling apart and it is nickel and diming the Village which doesn't have money. We need two new trucks which would cost around \$500,000 each. If this doesn't pass what is going to happen?

Bill D'Angelo asked Mr. Garwood to explain the process would be if both boards would move toward a permissive referendum and he did. Mayor Provo stated that there is no rush at this time.

Rebecca Jones- She asked would it be going to happen if this goes down and there is no Fire Department to show up anymore and asked where is the money going?

Bob Brill- If the Village residents have already voted once on a district and voted it down and voted to build a fire hall, we all need to come together. This shouldn't be a rushed decision. This will be a tax burden on everyone. Mr. D'Angelo explained to Mr. Brill if this becomes a district then he would know where all his tax dollars goes for fire protection.

Councilman DiSalvo- explained that the Town Attorney agrees to everything that Mr. Garwood has stated.

Ken Steen- Asked that both the tankers went down would the Village be able to buy new trucks if they can't be fixed. The Mayor stated "no." Mayor Provo asked Attorney Garwood how the district would get the money early on - he stated that they would have to go bond.

A Joint Town and Village Special Board Meeting has been scheduled for Monday August 5, 2019 at 6:30 PM in the Village Board Room.

With no further business on a motion from Trustee Mike and second by Trustee Rawleigh, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Torcello
Clerk/Treasurer