

**VESTAL TOWN BOARD WORK SESSION MINUTES (Fire District budget review)**

**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2017**

Board Attendance: Supervisor Schaffer; Board Members: Agneshwar, Messina, Fitzgerald, Majewski (acting as the Board of Fire Commissioners)

Also Attending: Fire Department Chief David Harrington, Assistant Fire Chiefs Doug Rose, John Paffie and Ron Birdsall, Fire Department Administrative Secretary Sue Bowen, Town Comptroller Laura McKane and Town Clerk Emil Bielecki.

Supervisor Schaffer **convened the Work Session at 5:00 PM.**

**5:00 PM – Review of the 2018 Proposed Fire District Budget**

Fire Department Chief David Harrington along with the Assistant Fire Chiefs and the Town Comptroller addressed the 15 questions about the Proposed 2018 Fire District Budget that were submitted from the Board of Fire Commissioners. Most questions were about specific line items in the operating budget.

Upon completion of the question and answer period, Chief Harrington presented the Board with a request to approve various budget transfers due to overage in projections and purchases that can be completed in 2017 that were budgeted in 2018 as follows:

**Town of Vestal**

**Administrative Unit: FIRE**

**Budget Transfer Requests**

TO: Town Comptroller Laura McKane

**September 18, 2017**

**The following budget transfer(s) are herewith requested:**

<b>From Line Item</b>	<b>To Line Item</b>	<b>Amount Requested</b>	<b>Explanation</b>
F3410 4040	F3410 2255	\$ 11,000.00	To Cover the Sealing and Stripping of newly paved parking lots
F3410 4040	F3410 4060	\$ 15,700.00	To cover the cost of Stop the Bleed Kits for Apparatus, Ice Rescue Suits, Gas Meter and Gas Meter Calibration Stations
F3410 4070	F3410 4060	\$ 2,600.00	
F3410 8404	F3410 4210	\$ 10,700.00	To cover addition maintenance costs due to older equipment that needs repair.
F3410 4190	F3410 4615	\$ 620.00	To cover new video training subscription
F3410 4190	F3410 2100	\$ 1,000.00	To cover additional cost for 5" Hose

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After a review of each item, the Board agreed to place this item on the agenda for the Regular Meeting on September 27<sup>th</sup>.

**OK-**This item will be placed on the Agenda for a vote at the next Regular Meeting of the Town Board.

Due to technical difficulties, Assistant Chief Doug Rose was unable to display his power point presentation showing the multi-year impact of increasing the tax levy at various amounts. Assistant Chief Rose noted that the historic ebb and flow of the tax rates has been problematic for the Fire Department. To provide for greater funding stability, the proposed changes would raise more money upfront to go the Capital Reserve Fund. The Capital Reserve Fund would replace bonding as the main source for financing for the majority of capital expenditures. The plan would also save a considerable amount in bonding costs. He is asking the Board to review the tax levy options as a way to achieve a more predictable and stable future for the financing of fire protection in the Town of Vestal.

Councilman Majewski stated that if the Board proceeds with the relatively large tax levy increases, as proposed, senior citizens are the most likely to complain.

Comptroller McKane noted that the Proposed 2018 Fire District Budget will need to be adopted on or before September 26<sup>th</sup>. In addition, the Board will also need to adopt the Fire District 5 year capital plan which modifies the previous 5 year plan adopted on October 26, 2016.

**The meeting was adjourned at 6:28 PM.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Emil Bielecki, Town Clerk