

A Joint Public Hearing of the Village of Victor Board of Trustees and the Victor Town Board was held on Monday, June 25, 2018 at the Town Hall, 85 East Main Street.

MEMBERS PRESENT:	Mayor	Gary Hadden
	Deputy Mayor	Michael Crowley
	Trustee	Robert Kelly
	Trustee	Michelle Chalupa
	Attorney	Reid Holter
	Village Clerk	Pamela Hogenes
	Supervisor	Jack Marren
	Councilman	Dave Condon
	Councilman	Dave Tantillo
	Councilman	Mike Guinan
	Councilman	Ed Kahovec
	Attorney	David Hou
	Town Clerk	Karen Bodine

MEMBERS ABSENT: Trustee Carol Commisso

OTHERS PRESENT: Lee Wagner, David Nankin, David Graham, Stephen Graham, Gerald Barry, Jason Sheldon, Mark Militello, David Zugnor, Glenn Lockwood, Melody Burri, Sean McAdoo, Jon McConnell, Linsey McConnell, Joe Murphy, Roxann Ammerman, Linda Tice, Kyleigh Tice, William Patterson, Tom Simonds, Kevin McDonald, Ryan DelRae.

Supervisor Marren called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM and the flag was saluted.

The Town Clerk was asked to read the Public Hearing Notice.

Motion to open the Scheduled Joint Public Hearing was made by Mayor Hadden, and seconded by Councilman Condon with a vote as follows: 9 AYES 0 NAYS

Fire Chief Sean McAdoo gave a brief recap since the Townwide Emergency Services study was done in 2017. The report listed six options for the Fire Service: (1) Maintain the status quo, (2) The Town could expand rolls into the fire protection area of support, (3) Create a single joint district for Victor Fire Department, (4) Create a Townwide Joint Fire District, (5) Create a regional Fire District with Fishers and Farmington, (6) Town expanding rolls in the fire protection support by actually having administrative staff on the payroll for the Town that did work on behalf of the fire districts. Both Farmington and Fishers have declined to join in these efforts. Chief McAdoo expressed how times have changed in the way Fire Fighting operates, not only

fighting fires, but responding to car crashes, rescues, hazardous materials spills, medical calls, gas leaks, building collapses, carbon monoxide alarms and natural disasters, also known as the all hazard response model. Chief McAdoo noted the steady decline of volunteers especially during the daytime and how we cannot go back to the simpler times to keep the status quo. Chief McAdoo expressed the need for the model to change and it is changing across the country. We need a dedicated Board to focus on looking at the challenges facing the fire department and adjusting what is necessary to meet the needs while keeping the cost effective. Chief McAdoo was very clear that replacing volunteers with paid fire fighters was not the intent, but help is needed with paid staff during the day due to the lack of availability of volunteers. He also expressed that the Board of Commissioners would be uncompensated positions.

Currently the Victor Fire Department has 53 members, nights and weekends they turn out an average of 12 to 14 fire fighters. The Victor Fire Department wants to keep this base strong and go with a standalone district. Chief McAdoo has a proposed budget for the new commission for their consideration which includes putting two daytime fire fighters on duty, Monday-Friday, but also expands recruitment and retention programs for the volunteers. Chief feels the current tax cap would hold for at least 5 years, maybe even longer. If the budget is accepted without change, depending on how the assessment and tax values go through for 2019, the cost would range right now between \$1.50- \$1.60 per thousand.

Mayor Hadden asked about the mutual agreement and Chief McAdoo said it would stay in effect and it is in writing.

There was some discussion as to why Fishers did not want to merge with Victor, noting there were a variety of issues. The feeling was that Fishers wanted to keep their own identity, they had monies in reserves and Victor still had debt for a few more years. They like the concept of a joint district, they just weren't ready at this point.

Trustee Crowley wanted to let the record show that Fishers Fire District came to the Village of Victor prior to the publication of the emergencies study requesting a joining of the two departments.

Mayor Hadden commented that Fishers felt uneasy about the fact that Victor Fire Department has such a strong volunteer staff and they are basically a paid staff and they believe paid staff is the way to go. Mayor Hadden expressed that he is very pleased with Chief McAdoo's approach to this proposition because he intends to keep the volunteer force going. Mayor Hadden commented to the fire fighter volunteers that were in attendance how proud the Village is of what has been accomplished over all these years and the Town of Victor. Mayor Hadden also brought up maybe approaching the State of New York with concerns and is there some kind of legislative action to help with the oversight issues.

Supervisor Marren asked for any Public Comments. There were no public comments and then the Board was asked for any additional comments:

Councilman Tantillo stated for the record that he is in support of a joint district, but he had a couple of concerns and asked David Hou to explain how if both boards approve it, how would a new taxing district work with a permissive referendum. David Hou explained that a new legal governing entity would be created that would be separate and distinct from a town or village, governed by the Board of Commissioners. Councilman Tantillo also expressed concern regarding the lack of financial oversight once a Fire District is formed and cited several Fire Districts that have been in the paper for embezzlement.

Chief McAdoo recommended that more people attend the monthly Fire District meetings, annual budget workshops, vote on the budgets and meet with the commissioners.

Trustee Crowley supports the creation of a new district as he feels a place in time has been reached where volunteerism isn't going to cut the need for services and he doesn't feel the Village is equipped to hire and professionally manage full time fire fighters. He also stated that the tax rate will increase whether or not there is a joint district, noting that the increase is for the potential fire fighters that Chief McAdoo is proposing.

Councilman Condon commented that more people need to be involved and he supports the joint fire district and agreed with Trustee Crowley we are moving our tax rate whether there is a consolidation or not. He feels this is a step in the right direction as far as the fire district being their own entity.

Motion was made by Councilman Kahovec, seconded by Councilman Guinan to close the Joint Public Hearing at 6:32PM 9 AYES 0 NAYS

RESOLUTION #81-18

LEAD AGENCY DETERMINATION - JOINT FIRE DISTRICT

On motion of Councilman Kahovec, seconded by Councilman Guinan, the following resolution was ADOPTED: 9 AYES 0 NAYS

WHEREAS, the Village Board of the Village of Victor (the "Village"), and the Town Board of the Town of Victor (the "Town", and collectively as the "Boards") desire to conduct a coordinated environmental review procedure for the establishment of a joint fire district for the Village and the Town; and

WHEREAS, the Town previously indicated its intent to act as lead agency for the purposes of environmental review; and

WHEREAS, the Village has indicated its consent to the Town acting as lead agency; and

WHEREAS, the Town and Village are the only interested or involved agencies in the proposed action; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Boards hereby agree to the following terms and conditions as part of compliance with the State Environmental Quality Review Act, Article 8, NYS Environmental Conservation Law, and the implementing regulations set forth in Title 6 NYCRR Part 617; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Town Board shall serve as lead agency for all actions involving the Boards; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Lead Agency shall complete Environmental Assessment Form (EAF) Part II and shall make a determination of significance in accordance with 6 NYCRR §§ 617.1 et seq.; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the determination of the Lead Agency shall be binding on the Involved Agencies pursuant to 6 NYCRR § 617.6(b) (3) (iii); and be it further

RESOLVED, that this agreement is authorized pursuant to 6 NYCRR § 617.6(b) (2) (i) and pursuant to the vote of the respective Boards; and be it further

RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Victor Fire Department, Village Clerk and the Town Clerk

Joint Public Hearing Adjournment: 6:35

Pamela Hogenes, Village Clerk