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INCORPORATED VILLAGE OF LAUREL HOLLOW
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
PUBLIC HEARING
February 8, 2017
7:30 p.m.

VILLAGE HALL
1492 Laurel Hollow Road
Syosset, New York 11791-9603

PRESENT: DANIEL DeVITA, Mayor
KEVIN JUSKO, Trustee
JEFFREY NEMSHIN, Trustee
MARTIN NOVICK, Trustee
RICHARD NICKLAS, Trustee
NICHOLAS TSAFOS, Trustee

ALSO PRESENT:

HOWARD AVRUTINE, Village Attorney
KAREN A. NAVIN, Clerk/Treasurer

2017 SYOSSET FIRE DISTRICT CONTRACT

RONALD KOENIG
OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

Proceedings

1 MR. AVRUTINE: This is the public hearing held
2 by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Laurel Hollow
3 regarding the 2017 Syosset Fire District Contract.

4 The exhibits in connection with this hearing
5 are as follows:

6 First, excerpt from the minutes of the
7 January 11, 2017 meeting of the Board of Trustees
8 setting tonight for the public hearing.

9 The next exhibit is a proposed contract with
10 the Syosset Fire District for fire protection in the
11 area of the Village of Laurel Hollow located south of
12 Route 25-A.

13 The next exhibit is a notice of public hearing
14 prepared by the Village Clerk.

15 The next exhibit is an Affidavit of Posting
16 prepared by Nicholas Porcaro stating that the public
17 notice was posted on January 20, 2017.

18 The next exhibit is an Affidavit of
19 Publication prepared by Richner Communications, Inc.,
20 publisher of the Oyster Bay Guardian, stating that the
21 public notice was published on January 20th, 2017.

22 The next exhibit consists of documents that
23 confirm that the Notice of Public Hearing was published
24 to the Village of Laurel Hollow website and sent to NEWS
25 subscribers on January 20, 2017.

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1 As the Board will recall, the Board had
2 previously and the village had previously entered into a
3 contract with the Syosset Fire District to provide fire
4 and emergency service for that portion of the village
5 south of 25-A which ran for a period of five years
6 commencing in 2012 and expiring at the end of 2016.

7 The agreement that is the subject of this
8 public hearing is proposed to be for a three-year
9 duration. Essentially, it's the same formula that has
10 been utilized during the past five-year term which is to
11 compare the certain aspects of the budgets the way that
12 it's in the total appropriations line contained in the
13 Syosset Fire District's budget for one year and then you
14 take the year before that, and that's how you determine
15 the increase.

16 The long and the short of it as far as the
17 Board is concerned here is that, I can tell you that I
18 will give you the percentages which prevailed under the
19 five-year deal that just ended.

20 The 2012 was .31 percent lower than 2011.
21 2013 was 2.81 percent higher than 2012. 2014 was
22 3.01 percent increased over 2013. 2015 was 0.70 percent
23 increase over 2014. And 2016 was a 1.02 percent
24 increase over 2015.

25 Under the formula as proposed, because

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1 fortunately we have the numbers, the number for 2017
2 will be the total sum being paid for 2017 is
3 \$229,704.05, which is 0.69 percent increase from 2016.
4 So, it's well below the cap. And again, it's the same
5 formula that we've been using for the past five years.

6 As far as what the rate will be for 2018, it
7 will be \$228,409.03. So, we have the 17 number. We
8 have the 18 number. We do not yet have the 19 number.

9 TRUSTEE TSAFOS: The .69 is .69 of 1 percent,
10 right?

11 MR. AVRUTINE: Yes.

12 TRUSTEE TSAFOS: And our cap was what?

13 MR. AVRUTINE: The cap going forward is 1.15.

14 TRUSTEE TSAFOS: So, this is a little bit over
15 half of the cap?

16 MR. AVRUTINE: Correct.

17 MAYOR DeVITA: Not to interrupt. They
18 refused. We wanted a cap like we have in Oyster Bay,
19 and they refused. The good thing was, Howard had gotten
20 numbers for what we would pay in 17 and 18. They had
21 figured it out already what the increases would be. I
22 think they are both below 1 percent. And the third year
23 is a crap shoot, but given the history, really not much
24 of a choice and we thought it was pretty safe given that
25 two out of the three years is at or below 1 percent

1 increase. We don't know what it's going to be for 19.

2 TRUSTEE TSAFOS: What I'm worried about is,
3 that their appropriations for some reason decide to
4 skyrocket.

5 MAYOR DeVITA: We know that, absolutely. Yes.
6 And trust me, we brought that up. And given the
7 numbers --

8 TRUSTEE TSAFOS: It's fine now.

9 TRUSTEE NEMSHIN: They wanted zero years,
10 right?

11 MAYOR DeVITA: That's right. They wanted zero
12 years at first.

13 TRUSTEE NEMSHIN: They wanted year to year.
14 So, we got three locked in.

15 MAYOR DeVITA: Yes, we don't know. But
16 they're working under a cap also, calculated a little
17 differently, I believe, but they also have a cap. So --

18 TRUSTEE TSAFOS: All right.

19 TRUSTEE NICKLAS: Doesn't our cap apply to the
20 entire budget?

21 TRUSTEE TSAFOS: Our cap applies to our entire
22 budget, that's why their variable can affect our cap
23 significantly.

24 TRUSTEE NICKLAS: It can. But I think what
25 you are saying though, it's half of our --

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1 TRUSTEE TSAFOS: Cap.

2 TRUSTEE NICKLAS: But, it's only -- that
3 little portion -- you can't take a portion of our budget
4 and say that's a half percent higher and then relate it
5 to --

6 TRUSTEE TSAFOS: I understand that. What I'm
7 saying is, if we are functioning under a 1.15 percent
8 cap, I'm trying to understand what kind of cap they are
9 functioning under. Because if they are on the same cap,
10 that's fine, we are in lockstep, right, even though this
11 is a small part of our -- not that small, just under
12 10 percent, like 9 percent. But I wanted to try to see
13 if we are in lockstep with them.

14 MR. AVRUTINE: I think in relative terms, you
15 are. And I think what we've always said was, we wanted
16 to try to keep the increases under agreement, such as
17 these, at the overall cap that the village has or less,
18 if you can.

19 TRUSTEE TSAFOS: That's what I'm going to.

20 MR. AVRUTINE: I would just like to clarify
21 the error that I made earlier. The 2017 increase over
22 2016 was 1.02 percent. And then the 2018 over 2017 will
23 be the .69 percent.

24 I also wanted to put on the record that due to
25 a calculation error by the Fire District, there was a

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refund due the village in the sum of \$2,898.90 which is being deducted from the payment that is due from the village to the Fire District on June 1st.

THE CLERK: Any other questions?
Can I have a motion to close the hearing?
Trustee Jusko. Seconded by Trustee Tsafos.
All in favor?

TRUSTEE JUSKO: Aye.
TRUSTEE NICKLAS: Aye.
TRUSTEE NEMSHIN: Aye.
TRUSTEE TSAFOS: Aye.
TRUSTEE NOVICK: Aye.
MAYOR DeVITA: Aye.

THE CLERK: And a motion to authorize the Mayor to execute the contract?
Trustee Novick. Seconded by Trustee Tsafos.
All in favor?

(Continued on next page.)

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TRUSTEE JUSKO: Aye.
TRUSTEE NICKLAS: Aye.
TRUSTEE NEMSHIN: Aye.
TRUSTEE TSAFOS: Aye.
TRUSTEE NOVICK: Aye.
MAYOR DeVITA: Aye.

CERTIFIED THAT THE FOREGOING IS A TRUE AND
ACCURATE TRANSCRIPT OF THE ORIGINAL STENOGRAPHIC MINUTES
IN THIS CASE.

RONALD H. KOENIG
Senior Court Reporter