

INCORPORATED VILLAGE OF LAUREL HOLLOW
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
PUBLIC HEARING
January 8, 2020
7:00 p.m.

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

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

ALSO PRESENT:

HOWARD AVRUTINE, Village Attorney
ELIZABETH KAYE, Clerk/Treasurer

SYOSSET FIRE DISTRICT CONTRACT RENEWAL

RONALD KOENIG
OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

MR. AVRUTINE: This is the public hearing for a new contract for fire protection and services with the Syosset Fire District. The prior agreement was a three-year agreement then from 2017 through the end of 2019. The agreement that has been prepared and forwarded is a proposed five-year term and the cost is calculated in the same fashion that the prior contract was calculated. It is based upon the line in the Syosset School District budget relating to total appropriations and the percentage by which that line increase is from year to year constitutes what the increase would be.

We attempted to negotiate a cap on the annual contract. The Fire District would not agree to a cap based upon their rationale that non-village residents of the district don't have any cap protection, so they did not wish to treat the village residents any differently than they treat their residents at large.

And that is essentially what the deal calls for.

MAYOR DEVITA: Okay. So, our last contract with Syosset -- now understand, Syosset Fire covers our village south of 25A, and the last contract was a three-year contract. As Howard said, the increases are determined by differentiations between expenditure lines

1 in their budget from one year to the next. During the
2 three-year contract, their increases hovered around
3 1 percent, sometimes lower, sometimes higher, which was
4 satisfactory. What caused us to ask for the 2 percent
5 cap was the increase this year for the first year of
6 the -- this is a five-year contract. Actually, we
7 wanted a five-year last time. They would only give us a
8 three. This time they said they'd like a five-year,
9 which is fine. It's the same formula. Their increase
10 this year is 2.6 percent, 2.63 or 2.68 percent, which
11 was higher than the normal, not as high as many years in
12 the past.

13 MR. AVRUTINE: 2.82.

14 MAYOR DEVITA: 2.82 percent. So, we went back
15 to them and asked for a cap. You know, we're a
16 municipality and we're subject to the 2 percent cap for
17 taxes for our residents. And their response as Howard
18 said was, well, they want to treat us like the rest of
19 the residents in the Fire District. To me, the
20 difference is our residents don't get to vote in a Fire
21 District election. So in any event, as we've known in
22 the past, we're at a disadvantage negotiating because
23 there's no one else to negotiate with.

24 In the not-too-distant past, we've seen high
25 increases, even double digits going back to the early

1 2000s. So, we will keep an eye on this and if we
2 continue to see increases of this size, I will, because
3 I'm in charge of fire, as I did a few years ago, become
4 more active in attending their monthly meetings to raise
5 objections if they start to get their spending out of
6 control. So --

7 TRUSTEE NOVICK: Are they subject to audit by
8 us?

9 MAYOR DEVITA: Subject to what?

10 TRUSTEE TSAFOS: Audit.

11 No, we get their financial statements though.

12 MAYOR DEVITA: Right.

13 So, that's where we're at. Again, this is
14 similar terms which worked out under the last contract
15 and we'd hope for lower increases in the future, but
16 these are the terms which are dictated by this fire
17 district, similarly dictated by, when we get to them,
18 the two Oyster Bay districts for the north side of the
19 village. And that's where we're at.

20 Any comments or questions?

21 TRUSTEE NOVICK: But percentage between Laurel
22 Hollow and the rest of what they do -- they do all of
23 Syosset?

24 MAYOR DEVITA: Yes.

25 TRUSTEE NOVICK: And I'm not sure --

1 DEPUTY MAYOR NEMSHIN: No. There's another
2 fire department in Syosset.

3 MAYOR DeVITA: Well, they have a couple of
4 firehouses. They even had one on Woodbury.
5 What's the question?

6 TRUSTEE NOVICK: I was wondering, that
7 particular firehouse, what do we represent, talking like
8 50 percent of the houses?

9 MAYOR DeVITA: No. I don't think so. Syosset
10 is a pretty big fire district. I don't know the exact
11 percentage.

12 TRUSTEE NICKLAS: Syosset is a much bigger
13 area.

14 DEPUTY MAYOR NEMSHIN: And much more dense.

15 MAYOR DeVITA: Audience, questions? Comments?

16 MR. AVRUTINE: A motion to close the public
17 hearing.

18 MAYOR DeVITA: I'll move to close the public
19 hearing. Seconded, Trustee Nicklas.

20 All in favor?

21 DEPUTY MAYOR NEMSHIN: Aye.

22 TRUSTEE JUSKO: Aye.

23 TRUSTEE MIRITELLO: Aye.

24 TRUSTEE NICKLAS: Aye.

25 TRUSTEE NOVICK: Aye.

Proceedings

1 TRUSTEE TSAFOS: Aye.

2 MAYOR DeVITA: Aye.

3 MR. AVRUTINE: And a motion to authorize the
4 Mayor to execute the contract.

5 I would like to add, I just noticed in going
6 through it there is a typo which I have to have them
7 fix. On the page where they're giving the example, the
8 rate for services in --

9 MAYOR DeVITA: 2020.

10 MR. AVRUTINE: They used the old.

11 MAYOR DeVITA: They have 2018. That will be
12 changed to 2020. It's just a typo.

13 MR. AVRUTINE: I'll have that done.

14 MAYOR DeVITA: Yes. But the motion will be
15 for me to authorize the corrected fire contract.

16 MR. AVRUTINE: Correct.

17 MAYOR DeVITA: A motion?

18 Trustee Novick. Seconded, Trustee Jusko.
19 All in favor?

20 DEPUTY MAYOR NEMSHIN: Aye.

21 TRUSTEE JUSKO: Aye.

22 TRUSTEE MIRITELLO: Aye.

23 TRUSTEE NICKLAS: Aye.

24 TRUSTEE NOVICK: Aye.

25 TRUSTEE TSAFOS: Aye.

Proceedings

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MAYOR DeVITA: Aye.

MR. AVRUTINE: That completes the public
hearing.

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

Ronald Koenig

RONALD H. KOENIG
Official Court Reporter