

Special meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Brockport was held in the Conference Room, Municipal Building 49 State Street, Brockport, New York, May 9, 2011 at 6:00pm.

PRESENT: Mayor M. Connie Castañeda, Deputy Mayor/Trustee Daniel P. Kuhn, Trustee Kent R. Blair, Trustee Carol L. Hannan, Trustee Scott W. Hunsinger

EXCUSED: Clerk Leslie A. Morelli

ALSO PRESENT:

CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE: Mayor Castañeda called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Mayor turned the meeting over to Trustee Hunsinger.

Trustee Hunsinger [SH]: He has been involved in extensive discussion, research, and meetings with regard to a fire district. The Board and the Village are at a crossroads with regard to how to proceed. He wanted to address the attitude of the 2 Towns, who are in a service contract with us [the Village] to obtain fire protection. He thought we were at the point where it was time to “take our ball and go home.” The Brockport fire department had over 120 years of unblemished service to the community and therefore was not “broke.” He also felt our relationship with the Towns regarding the fire protection was not broken.

Trustee Blair [KB]: A large portion of him, for most of this process, has been in favor of the fire district. However, in the end, he realizes that the fire district is not the right thing for the residents of either the Towns or the Village. Creating a new fire service, as the Towns might do without us, would result in a large drop in their ISO ratings and increases in homeowners insurance. He was initially for the fire district, but was now against it.

Trustee Hannan [CH]: Asked if SH was making a motion to end the process we are currently engaged in with the Towns re: the fire district.

→ SH: Made a motion to discontinue all discussions and negotiation with the Towns of Sweden and Clarkson regarding a fire district. CH seconded.

CH: Does not think that transferring the assets of the fire department to the fire district for \$1 was in our best interests. While she was impressed with the Spencerport/Ogden/Parma representatives that visited our work session, she noted that was a “cooperative” effort and felt this was not in Brockport.

Trustee Kuhn [DK]: Wanted to correct CH with regard to the consideration for our property. While consideration was being negotiated and was a subject for executive session, he could in fact say that it was substantially more than “\$1”. Noted that he was still on the fence with regard to whether a fire district was right for our citizens, and that’s why he wanted to see the process through up to the point of no return. He wanted to have a public hearing on the issue, which is what the 5/10/11 meeting was scheduled to create. That way, residents of the Village, who are certainly capable of making their opinions on things like this known, and possibly even residents of the 2 Towns, could come to the public hearing with signs and pitchforks and tell the Boards not to create a fire district under any circumstances. Other than the very few people who have spoken at meetings, no one has had an opportunity to make their opinion known on the fire district. He felt that much more information was needed before he could vote for a fire district, but thought that the process could provide that additional information. We were not at the “point of no return” yet and owed a fiduciary duty to our residents to make a full investigation, instead of pulling out now.

SH: Was at that point at the beginning, of wanting to investigate up to the point of no return, but now felt like this was not in the best interests of our community. He had proposed a survey re: the communities’ interest in a fire district and was dismissed out of hand by the Town supervisors.

Mayor Castaneda [CC]: No one is going to argue we have a great fire department; the issue with regard to the fire district is more about how the Village has handled it. We had called for the tri-municipal meeting less than two weeks ago, and now we were reversing our decision. We formed a committee to meet with the towns, and SH was only at 2 of the 4 meetings regarding that committee. Obviously, something with regard to our fire service is broken, or we wouldn’t be at this point. This is a financial decision. The Village cannot sustain a fire department on only 20% of the money, and the Towns contribute 80% right now. We can’t

huge outlay millions of dollars to purchase emergency vehicles and buildings. Surrounding towns protected by Fire Districts pay substantially more for fire services than do Clarkson and Sweden. Ogden, which created a Fire District in 2002, pays 31% more than Clarkson and 39% more than Sweden for its fire service. Hamlin, which is also protected by fire districts, pays over 4 times what Clarkson and Sweden pay for fire protection.

The Village of Brockport Fire Department has provided effective protection for the residents of the Village and the Towns of Clarkson and Sweden for over 130 years. The Village Board hopes that the Town Boards will thoughtfully consider the true effect that the creation of a Fire District will have on their voters and the community as a whole. We would be happy to share the New York State Comptroller's report, the Report of the New York State Commission on Local Government Efficiency & Competitiveness, and Monroe County data that supplied the factual information cited above.

Thank you for your time. The Village Board looks forward to continued dialogue with the Towns to develop ways to benefit all of our communities.

Sincerely,

Scott W. Hunsinger
Trustee

KB seconded the motion.

CC: Wanted the letter changed to reflect that the "majority" of the Board voted to do this. She wished the letter was shared with the rest of us beforehand so that we could review it, instead of having it put upon us all of a sudden. She wanted to know where all the facts came from that were in the letter.

SH: All the facts were previously stated at meetings.

CC: Wants letter changed to note that neither the Towns nor the Village will have control with a fire district.

SH: The Fire board will still have politics, regardless.

DK: Wanted the letter changed with respect to the consideration that was stated in the letter. "\$1" is inaccurate, we know from our prior discussion that there is more being given to us than just \$1.

Motion:

CH: Yes

KB: Yes

SH: Yes

DK: Wanted clarification with regard to his suggestion.

SH: The letter will be changed to reflect "\$1 plus balances of various reserve accounts and other consideration."

DK: Yes

CC: No

Carried 4/1

ADJOURNMENT:

Meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:30pm.

Deputy Mayor Daniel P. Kuhn