

**Public Hearing
February 14, 2006
2006 Fire Contract**

Present: Frederick Stowell: Supervisor
Lillian Stowell: Councilor
Nancy Sheeley: Councilor
Jack Barker: Councilor
Robert Ventre, Town Attorney
Recording Secretary: Amy J. Ford, Town Clerk
Absent: Ronald Eldred: Councilor
Village of Altmar Board

Proof of Notice having been furnished, the Public Hearing on the 2006 Fire Contract was called to order at 6:31pm by Frederick Stowell, Supervisor.

Supervisor Stowell then pointed out to those present where each fire exit was, and what the rules of conduct were going to be for the hearing. Supervisor Stowell then read the proposed fire contract the town's attorney Mr. Ventre had re-written because of the incorrect spellings and dates. The hearing was then opened up to the audience for questions and comments.

- Mr. William A. Mittag asked if there was an itemized list for the amount asked for? Supervisor Stowell stated yes; but the town's attorney had to get involved to obtain it. Mr. Mittag then asked if any research on response times for fire calls has been made? Supervisor Stowell stated not at this time.
- Mr. Chris Cronk commented that to keep the fire contract would be beneficial to the town.
- Mr. Thomas Brombach questioned what was the basis for the 17.6% increase? Councilor Stowell stated that the Village board hasn't given the town board one. Mr. Brombach then stated that the town board should explore options.
- Ms. Linda Williamson commented that the Village board seems to have the town board "over a barrel", and she would also like to have the town explore other options.
- Mr. Benjamin Tousant questioned the relevance of the ambulance contract to the fire contract. If the town board did not pay NOCA, would McFee respond? Supervisor Stowell stated that yes they would, and this had been discussed prior to signing the contract with NOCA.
- Mr. Frank Scott commented that nobody present has a complaint with the Fire Department, but with the Village board. Mr. Scott also stated that the proposed fire contract does not include "emergency topics", such as rescues, basement flooding, etc... Mr. Ventre stated that the "fire protection" part covers all. Mr. Scott then commented that since the town board pays 1/2 of the electric and heat bills, and the Fire Dept. uses 3/4 of the utilities – this should be changed and the Village should pay the majority because they own the Fire Dept.
- Mr. Chris Cronk questioned how much of an increase in the proposed contract is due to the cost of heat & electric? Mr. Cronk commented that the municipal building should be "cost of energy" checked. Supervisor Stowell stated that it would be something to look into.
- Ms. Barbara Elliott, Rescue Captain questioned when was the last increase in a fire contract asked for? Supervisor Stowell stated that there was one in the last contract.
- Mr. William Sheeley questioned if there was a public hearing on the new fire truck, or if there was a grant written to help purchase it? Supervisor Stowell stated no to both questions.
- Ms. Linda Williamson then asked Supervisor Stowell if he would briefly go over the options the town has. Supervisor Stowell then stated the following:
 1. The Town could go to a Fire District
 2. The Town could have other Fire Departments come into the town as mutual aid
 3. The Village residents could absolve the Village Board, and then the Town could go to a Fire District
- Mr. Robert Ventre, Town Attorney then explained what a Fire District and a Fire Commission was. That a Fire Commission is a separate board that does not answer to either municipal boards.

- Mrs. Lynn Brombach questioned what the ratio between the Village & Town was? Mr. Ventre stated that by parcel the Village is 93.64 and the Town is 45.41. But this is not relative to the cost of the Fire Contract.

Motion made by Councilor Sheeley seconded by Councilor Barker to adjourn the hearing. Motion carried. Adopted (4-0) Councilor Sheeley: aye, Councilor Stowell: aye, Councilor Barker: aye, Supervisor Stowell: aye.

All persons desiring to be heard, having been heard, the Hearing was terminated at 7: 37pm by Supervisor Stowell.

Dated this 14th day of February 2006

Amy J. Ford
Albion Town Clerk