

Special Meeting-

The special meeting of the City of Port Jervis Common Council was held in the Council Chambers, 20 Hammond Street, Port Jervis, New York on Tuesday, November 22, 2016 at 6:00 p.m.

Attendance-

Mayor Kelly Decker and members of the Common Council were present except Stanley Siegel and Kiel Van Horn. City Counsel William Bavoso, and Deputy City Clerk Treasurer Bobbie Jo Muller were also present.

Mayor Decker opened the meeting at 6:00 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Decker stated that the purpose of the special meeting was for discussion of considering a contractual agreement with the Port Jervis Volunteer Ambulance Corps. and for adopting a Declaration of Mandatory Water Restrictions.

Mayor Decker stated that we are currently in a volunteer water restriction due to a severe drought in Orange County. He is considering a mandatory water restriction, but has decided to hold off until Monday, November 28th, 2016 to have the discussion in hopes of some upcoming precipitation and some additional information on reservoir level readings from the DPW. He reminded the citizens that the volunteer water restriction will remain in effect.

Mayor Decker stated the Port Jervis Volunteer Ambulance Corps. is in financial distress and needs some assistance. The Port Jervis Volunteer Ambulance Corps. Inc. is a separate entity and not affiliated with the City of Port Jervis. They are not currently operating.

Items that were presented:

- Basic Life Support (BLS) vs. Advanced Life Support (ALS) - Go back to BLS
- Purchase of new ambulance was necessary to replace one not running and others that were too costly to repair
- Had to close its doors due to the inability to pay for workers compensation insurance premiums

In order to re-open they must, make payment and provide proof of workers compensation to the state, provide valid proof of vehicle insurance to the state and contact the state to inspect the building and ambulances. This must be done before December 8 or they will lose their certification and would have to start all over again.

They had a meeting last Thursday with EMS in our area, Town of Deerpark and the PJ Volunteer Corps. Financial information was requested and reviewed.

Lisa Randazzo reported some of the items requested were anticipated revenue, such as outstanding invoices billed to date, all expenses, any mortgages or leases, bank statements and call volume. She reported the findings as follows:

- 2016 Call Volume 2,300, Anticipated Call Volume without ALS 2,100
- Total A/R \$426,000 of which approximately \$223,000 is considered collectible
- Total Expenses to be paid out of \$49,092 not including mortgages or leases to get the doors open

Mayor Decker stated they discussed a contract with the PJ Volunteer Corps. to correct the issues now. There is no promise of any future money but the contract does go through 2017. The money to be given with this contract would come from a contingency account. This account is for major catastrophes. Not having an ambulance available to the residents of the City is of greatest importance to the health and safety of the citizens. There is no money in the 2016 budget or the 2017 budget for this payout.

Important details of the contract:

- Town of Deerpark Contract and City of Port Jervis Contract are mirror images.
- The City will have the ability to immediately and at any time audit the books of the PJ Ambulance Corps.
- The contract allows each municipality to put one voting member on the board of directors for the 2017 year.
- Gives us the ability to negotiate with their creditors to reduce amounts owed

Allows us to look at where they are as far their property and their ownership of different items and how we can correct that

Will work together to create a revenue stream and fund raising

Each municipality will give \$15,000 immediately and each another \$15,000 before the end of the year

This hopefully will correct any problems and get the ambulance corps. on the road to recovery.

Mayor Decker introduced Roger Morgan as a representative of the Port Jervis Volunteer Ambulance Corps.

Roger Morgan thanked the council for their support. Mayor Decker asked Mr. Morgan if he felt the contract was good for them and he said yes. He stated that they were having a meeting at 7:00 pm tonight and that the SOP's and By Laws had been re-written. He will send the Mayor a copy.

Mayor Decker stated that the PJ Volunteer Ambulance Corps. put together a 2016 3 year Business Plan.

Public Comment

A gentlemen asked Mr. Morgan if the Ambulance Corps. Was a corporation because he said if there were 2 or under employees they wouldn't need workers compensation. Mr. Morgan said they are incorporated and previously had 20 employees, so workers compensation was required.

Mayor Decker then asked for volunteers. He stated that he spoke with Mr. Robertson from the state and that the law requires one driver and one EMT for a call; although they prefer one driver and two EMT's.

Roger Morgan stated that services, per the contract, will be limited to the City of Port Jervis and Town of Deerpark – Mutual aid only for surrounding areas.

A woman asked what the expected start up costs would be.

Mayor Decker said we hope to get re-opened without losing the certification. The reason you see mobil life and emstar is because the state has asked them to cover the area for thirty days while we are trying to get re-opened.

Judy Opelt, 4th Ward, inquired about costs for volunteer EMT training, asked if they would remain BLS and if the EMT's would be paid. She stated that the property was purchased and that there was enough money at that time to tear down the building and still pay the mortgage.

Mr. Morgan responded that it would be the same as before, but with more requirements for the student, the training costs about \$800 and you can no longer get it for free. They will operate as a BLS and EMT's will be paid, but they hope to get some volunteers.

Mayor Decker stated that they need to look at the property because there is a lien on the property with the current ambulance building because of the Orange Street property.

A man asked what the annual budget was, what is the projected shortfall, how many ambulances and fly cars do they have and how many employees.

Ms. Randazzo responded that the annual budget to run is \$500,000 with no short fall, they haven't done 2017 yet.

Mr. Morgan responded that they have 2 ambulances, no fly car and no employees; however 5 or 6 previous employees have said that they would stay on.

Mayor Decker stated they need 24 hours coverage 7 days a week and need volunteer EMT's and drivers.

Mr. Morgan said that volunteer drivers for 24 hours would save over \$150 per day.

A man asked can anybody drive.

Mr. Morgan responded yes, you need to be 21 year of age, have a valid driver's license and complete an EVOC-Emergency Vehicle Operations Course. Cost of the EVOC would be covered by the ambulance corps. Anyone interested in volunteering can apply. All the information is posted on their website www.portjervisvac.org.

Erika Cox asked about how they do their billing because it is inconsistent. She asked how they document their patient information, why do they go to paid EMT's and if they get any supplies reimbursed from the hospital. She asked if there will be an AED on the rig.

Mr. Morgan said they are using a new billing company because they had problems with the previous one. They currently use tablets for patient info but may go back to paper to save money, they had to go to paid EMT's because they didn't have enough volunteers and they do not get any supplies from the hospital anymore. There will be an AED on the rig.

Mayor Decker said that he and Mr. Spears, Town of Deerpark Supervisor, have a meeting scheduled with the hospital the first week in December to address some of the issues.

Someone asked the name of the agency Mayor Decker has been speaking with at the state about this issue.

May Decker said that he has been in contact with Richard Robertson from NYS Department of State of Health Bureau of EMS.

Tom Faggione, County Legislator, stated that the County is fully aware of this issue. He has been in contact with O.C. Executive Steven Neuhaus, O.C Commissioner of Emergency Services Brenden Casey and Deputy Commissioner in charge of Emergency Services, Frank Cassanite. He stated that only 4 municipal agencies in Orange County have both ALS and BLS. The other 17 agencies contract out with either Mobil Life or Emstar. It is not uncommon for municipalities to have only BLS service.

End Public Comment

Mrs. Fitzpatrick thanked John Codichini for his contribution.

Motion by Mr. Belcher, seconded by Ms. Randazzo to execute the contract with the Port Jervis Volunteer Ambulance Corps, Inc.

AYE: 8 ABSENT: 2(Siegel and Van Horn) NAY: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 CARRIED

Meeting Adjourned - Motion by David Bavoso, seconded by Regis Foster to adjourn the special meeting at 7:35pm

AYE: 8 ABSENT: 2(Siegel and Van Horn) NAY: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 CARRIED

Bobbie Jo Muller
Deputy City Clerk-Treasurer