



Town of Geddes

Public Safety Committee Minutes

August 7, 2018

In Attendance: Councilors LaFex, Krawczyk, Weber

Police: Chief Gillette, Captain Fall

Fire: Chief Mark Zoanetti, Chief Modafferi

Meeting called to order at 4:02 pm.

Chief Zoanetti updated us on training, including a “bunk in” week. The department has added three new firefighters this year, and all are positive additions.

The department is working on staffing for the NYS Fair, which requires coverage 8/28 through midnight on Labor Day. Firefighters work on a 24 hours on, 48 hours off schedule.

Chief Modafferi shared the information received as they were briefed on the implications and cost to the department in order to be in compliance

with the NYS Cancer Law passed by the legislature. The bill mandates coverage for “interior firefighters”, who worked over a five year period. Time served does not necessarily need to be consecutive, but the firefighter must be considered “fit” for this duty. Insurance costs are guesstimated to be \$225, down a bit from the initial amount (\$300). This insurance covers specific cancers related to the profession.

The Solvay Fire Department will work on their 2019 budget after the fair.

At present, the Village of Solvay does not pay anything for the firefighting services, as the Town of Geddes underwrites the cost for the entire town.

The committee looked the Disaster Preparedness Plan submitted to us by Bill Morse. Comments were generally positive concerning the necessity for, and activating the proper procedures, for the town, and its employees, officials and the board as to responsibilities, roles, tasks, communication, command station coordination etc. Some observations included that the document was “boilerplate”, the notification to our firefighters would be through the 911 system, the availability for funding and emergency funding would be in place with county, FEMA, federal money (article 2B?) and town personnel providing resources. A plan for accessing necessary emergency funding is also outlined. We agreed to move this document for review by the admin committee, and then sent to the board for adoption.

Ed updated us on the Village’s response to our requesting that they pay half of the animal control budgeted fee of \$3500 since more than half of the incidents occur in the Village. Ed will continue the discussions, including ensuring that we can legally share these expenses by checking with our attorneys.

We reviewed the draft for the new policy of charging groups for outside of routine services police support, such as providing coverage for events, gatherings etc. Chief Gillette will draft the accompanying application,

and both will be reviewed at next month's meeting. We hope to have the board approve this policy at our October meeting.

Concerning the petition to lower the speed limit on Grand Ave., Chief Gillette explained that one side of Grand Ave. is the Town of Onondaga, and the other is the Town of Geddes. He called the TOO highway superintendent, who reported that they were not considering lowering the speed limit at the stretch adjacent to Westhill High School as requested. Ed said that he would contact the county to see what could be done. Chief Gillette will respond to the people who signed the petition via letter.

The Chief also addressed the issue of backed up traffic last year in Lakeland during the State Fair, making it impossible for emergency vehicles to respond to any calls in Lakeland. He attended the DOT meetings, and he was assured that this will not happen again this year. Traffic control plans call for little traffic to pass through there.

We discussed a way to honor a former chief for his 30 years of service. More information will be gathered and a decision will be made how to remember this dedicated professional.

Two officers have graduated from their training, and they are now in orientation at the TOG police department.

Meeting adjourned: 5:19

Executive Session: 5:20

The meeting adjourned at 5:55.

Next Public Safety Committee meeting will be announced.