

## January 5, 2023 Special Town Board Meeting

The Special Meeting of the Town Board was called to order by Chairman Gaulke at 9:45 a.m. at the Oneida County Courthouse, County Board Room. Supervisor Hanson, Supervisor Cobb and Clerk Nancy Edwards were present.

Others present: Jim Sommerfeldt, Kay Hoff, Norm Wetzel, Roberta Gast, Susan Schoonover, Oneida County Sheriff Grady Hartman, Chief Deputy Dan Hess, members of the Oneida County Public Safety Committee Mike Timmons, Diana Harris, Russ Fisher, Tom Kelly and Chair Steven Schreier.

This meeting was properly posted, and the media notified as required by law.

Motion by Supervisor Hanson, seconded by Supervisor Cobb to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

**Oneida County Ambulance Contract:** Introductions were made. Opening statements by Chairman Gaulke, Supervisor Cobb and Supervisor Hanson.

Discussion centered around the existing formula, utilizing equalized value and number of runs. Antiquated formula has caused Oneida County to "subsidize" the Town of Lac du Flambeau services compared to the amount paid by Oneida County taxpayers. Members of the Town Board agreed that a per run rate would need to cover Oneida County costs. We are seeking an equitable solution for all parties. Committee Chair states that the previous formula based on number of runs, is not equitable. The Town was not aware that the formula was deficient in equitability.

Flat rate given in the new contract continues to use equalized value and does not take into consideration the fact that the Town of Lac du Flambeau does perform its own runs with our own ambulances. With the increase in the Aspirus contract costs to Oneida County, their costs of operation have increased.

Sheriff Hartman supplied the math that resulted in the initial contract amount of \$248,400 as well as the first-year adjustment to \$178,224.

*\$385,714 Oneida County tax base - \$94,200 General Fund Ambulance expenses budgeted = \$291,000 reduced by same percentage as Arbor Vitae = \$178,224*

Motion by the Oneida County Public Safety Committee member Mike Timmons, seconded by Committee member, Tom Kelly, to appoint a sub-committee to attend a joint meeting as soon as possible to continue discussions; amended to include a directive to have Oneida County Ambulance Service resume response to the Town of Lac du Flambeau as needed until a resolution is reached. Discussion on operations without a contract.

Motion by Supervisor Cobb, seconded by Supervisor Hanson to pay \$100,000 to cover Oneida County Ambulance services until final negotiations are completed; at a weekly rate of \$3,427.38 per week. Motion carried.

Oneida County Public Safety Committee resumes their motion on the floor. With the assurance of payment motion by Town Board, motion carried. Decision to have Oneida County Public Safety Committee Chair and Vice Chair, along with the Town

Board and Tribal leaders to set a future meeting to continue negotiations on the contract.

The Town Board again offered its appreciation to meet with this committee to begin a dialogue of negotiations.

Motion by Supervisor Cobb, seconded by Supervisor Hanson to adjourn at 11:20 a.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Edwards  
Town Clerk

DRAFT