

JOINT BOARD MEETING: MONROE JOINT FIRE DISTRICT
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Public Hearing in the Matter of:

THE DISSOLUTION OF THE PRESENTLY EXISTING
MONROE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT IN THE
TOWN OF MONROE, ORANGE COUNTY, NEW YORK.

THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE MONROE JOINT FIRE
DISTRICT IN THE TOWNS OF MONROE AND WOODBURY
AND IN THE VILLAGE OF MONROE AND HARRIMAN,
ORANGE COUNTY, NEW YORK, AND DETERMINING
OTHER MATTERS IN CONNECTION THEREWITH.

-----X

November 10, 2009
PINE TREE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
Monroe, New York

TOWN OF MONROE TOWN BOARD:

SANDY LEONARD	Supervisor
JAMES H. ROGERS, SR.	Councilman
DONALD F. WEEKS	Councilman
PETER J. MARTIN	Councilman
HARLEY DOLES	Councilman

TOWN OF WOODBURY TOWN BOARD:

JOHN BURKE	Supervisor
AMIDEE HAVILAND	Councilman
JAMES SKOUFIS	Councilman
CARLTON LEVINE	Councilman

VILLAGE OF MONROE VILLAGE BOARD:

JOHN M. KARL, III	Mayor
JAMES C. PURCELL	Trustee
MELINDA GORMLEY	Trustee
CHARLIE LESSER	Trustee
WAYNE CHAN	Trustee

VILLAGE OF HARRIMAN VILLAGE BOARD:

STEPHEN H. WELLE	Mayor
CHRISTINE E. SACHER	Trustee
EDWARD B. SHUART, JR.	Trustee
G. BRUCE CHICHESTER	Trustee
LAWRENCE S. MOSCA	Trustee

FRANK T. SIMEONE, ESQ. Attorney

FACT FINDING COMMITTEE:

TOM SULLIVAN
TOM SMITH
TOM CARTON
TOM LOWE
LEN LEONICK

PRESENTERS:

RICHARD GOLDSTEIN
KATIE CORREA

ROBERT J. CUMMINGS, JR. RPR.
OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER.

-PROCEEDINGS-

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2 SUPERVISOR LEONARD: Good evening, ladies
3 and gentlemen. I would like to welcome all of
4 you to the public hearing on the fire district.

5 As I said before, I would just like to ask
6 everybody to turn their cell phones down or to
7 the vibrate position.

8 I would also like to thank all the public
9 officials from the towns and villages that are
10 here tonight. We have the Town of Woodbury, from
11 the Town Board; we have the Village Board from
12 Monroe; the Town Board from Monroe; and Village
13 Board from Harriman, as well as our fire
14 commissioners.

15 We do have a stenographer here this evening,
16 so I would ask when you do come to the podium to
17 speak, please state your name and speak slowly
18 enough so that he can be able to get everything
19 down because we are going to have this to
20 preserve it for the public record.

21 If I could ask everybody to please rise for
22 the pledge.

23 (Whereupon, the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.)

24 MR. SIMEONE: Before we begin the public
25 hearing, I would just like to discuss a couple of

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items of housekeeping.

First of all, we intend to hear all public comments tonight. On the chance, and it only is a chance, that we have to adjourn this public hearing to continue it at a further date, although I don't expect that, I would just like to propose to the assembled public officials here that we would do it, I hope, on either December 22nd or December 29th at this same location.

If during the proceedings tonight you can consider your own personal calendars, so that if we do have to adjourn, we can consider doing it on one of those two evenings so we can be sure to finish this important bit of business before the 1st of the year, which is a deadline of sorts because of the tax status date that we are trying to meet.

Before I ask the prospective Supervisors and Mayors to on behalf of each of their municipal boards to open the proceedings tonight and open the public hearing, I would like to request that members of the public when they speak, come to the podium, give your name, give your address.

-PROCEEDINGS-

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2 If you have a particular affiliation either with
3 the fire company or as a resident of the Town or
4 village, you state it. And I do have a watch
5 with a sweep hand and so that everyone can have a
6 chance to speak tonight, I am going to attempt to
7 limit comments to three minutes.

8 SUPERVISOR LEONARD: I would like to ask for
9 a motion to open a public hearing for the Town of
10 Monroe.

11 COUNCILMAN MARTIN: So move.

12 COUNCILMAN WEEKS: Second.

13 SUPERVISOR LEONARD: Call the question.

14 COUNCILMAN MARTIN: Aye.

15 COUNCILMAN WEEKS: Aye.

16 COUNCILMAN ROGERS: Aye.

17 COUNCILMAN DOLES: Aye.

18 SUPERVISOR LEONARD: Aye.

19 MR. SIMEONE: Town of woodbury, would you
20 open the public hearing for your Town Board,
21 please?

22 SUPERVISOR BURKE: I will take a motion that
23 we open the public hearing at this time.

24 COUNCILMAN HAVILAND: I will make the
25 motion.

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COUNCILMAN SKOUFIS: I will second.

SUPERVISOR BURKE: All in favor?

COUNCILMAN HAVILAND: Aye.

COUNCILMAN SKOUFIS: Aye.

COUNCILMAN LEVINE: Aye.

SUPERVISOR BURKE: Aye.

MR. SIMEONE: Village of Monroe?

SUPERVISOR LEONARD: Village of Monroe.

MAYOR KARL: At this time I need a motion to
open the public hearing.

TRUSTEE CHAN: I make a motion.

MAYOR KARL: I have a motion.

TRUSTEE GORMLEY: Second.

MAYOR KARL: I have a second.

Call the question. All those in favor?

TRUSTEE CHAN: Aye.

TRUSTEE PURCELL: Aye.

TRUSTEE LESSER: Aye.

TRUSTEE GORMLEY: Aye.

MAYOR KARL: And those opposed?

(NO RESPONSE.)

MAYOR KARL: So carried. Thanks.

MR. SIMEONE: And the village of Harriman.

MAYOR WELLE: I need a motion to open the

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public hearing.

TRUSTEE SHUART: So move.

TRUSTEE MOSCA: Second.

MAYOR WELLE: Call the question.

Bruce?

TRUSTEE CHICHESTER: Aye.

MAYOR WELLE: Larry?

TRUSTEE MOSCA: Aye.

MAYOR WELLE: Christine?

TRUSTEE SACHER: Aye.

MAYOR WELLE: Ed?

TRUSTEE SHUART: Aye.

MAYOR WELLE: So carried.

MR. SIMEONE: Thank you.

Before the public hearing commences, excuse me, before the public comments are invited, we have a presentation from the Steering Committee by Rich Goldstein on the work of the Steering Committee and the outline of the operations of the proposed Monroe Joint Fire District, Rich? And his assistant, Katie Correa.

MR. GOLDSTEIN: Thanks, Frank.

Good evening, everybody. Thanks for coming out tonight.

-PROCEEDINGS-

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2 what we are about to show is basically a
3 compilation of what was put together over the
4 past 3, 3 and 1/2 years of all the committees
5 that assembled to get the information to move
6 forward with the Monroe fire district.

7 what the Fact Finding Committee did for this
8 presentation was they put together some stuff as
9 to why the committee was started in the first
10 place to investigate the district.

11 what the committee consisted of; how all the
12 information was collected to present back to the
13 committees; and who assisted in each one of these
14 committees.

15 A brief description of how it started.
16 There was definitely a need for a unified
17 district to help in response personnel.

18 There was also a need to close the gap on
19 the capital needs of all three companies for
20 replacement of equipment; a way for the taxpayers
21 over time to save money; a better way to control
22 the expenditures as a whole; and a need for a
23 unified tax rate for our community.

24 what these committees consisted of was the
25 initial Fact Finding Committee, which was put

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2 together to investigate the formation of the
3 Joint Fire District. That was broken down to
4 several subcommittees - one being the Boundary
5 Committee, which was the committee that
6 investigated the operational boundaries of the
7 potential district; the LOSAP Committee, which
8 was the committee that investigated the procedure
9 necessary to dissolve the current LOSAP program
10 and develop a new plan for the proposed fire
11 district; the Operations Committee, which
12 investigated the firematic operations, the SOP's,
13 and the procedures that the proposed district
14 would follow, including, but not limited to
15 Emergency Medical Service; the Budget Committee,
16 which was to, Katie, could you put that slide
17 back, please? The Budget Committee, which was
18 put together to gather all the information from
19 different municipalities and each individual fire
20 company and their associated capital
21 replacements. And then we had some elected
22 officials throughout each one of these committees
23 to assist in the investigation process.

24 How this information was collected; as most
25 of you know there was quite a bit of information

-PROCEEDINGS-

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2 that was needed to be put together through the
3 three companies. We had to investigate both
4 firematically and civil side of the companies.
5 we had to review the budgets from each
6 municipality and each individual fire company on
7 the firematic side. We had to do a complete
8 inventory from each company so that capital
9 equipment replacements schedule could be
10 compiled.

11 Those who assisted in these committees. The
12 Fact Finding Committee was Tom Sullivan, Tom
13 Smith, Tom Carton, Tom Lowe and Len Leonick.

14 The Boundary Committee was Tom Smith, Dan
15 Bennet, Steve Welle, Steve Maneri and Ed Stuart.

16 The LOSAP Committee was Len Leonick, Jim
17 Purcell, John Dolch, Dan Murray, Tom Lowe and
18 Chuck Grover.

19 The Operations Committee was Tom Lowe, Vinny
20 Tankasali, George Chalupa, Tim Carr, George
21 Linderman and Dan Bennet.

22 And the Budget was Tom Carton, myself,
23 George Chalupa, Peter Martin, Charlie Lesser and
24 Carl Braunage1.

25 Frank Simeone and other elected officials

-PROCEEDINGS-

1
2 also helped with these committees - Frank Simeone
3 being the attorney.

4 what I did on this is I basically took the
5 final reports of all the committees and kind of
6 summed them up for everybody to have a better
7 understanding of what's going on.

8 Starting with the Boundary's, the Joint Fire
9 District is going to include most of the Town of
10 Monroe Fire Protection District; the entire
11 Incorporated Village of Monroe; and the entire
12 Incorporated Village of Harriman, including that
13 part of the Village of Harriman in the Town of
14 Woodbury.

15 The Joint Fire District will not include the
16 unincorporated areas of the Town of Monroe that
17 are not contiguous to the new Joint Fire
18 District.

19 There are six areas. These areas are
20 surrounded by and landlocked by the Village of
21 Kiryas Joel and the Town of Woodbury. And I
22 believe do we have the map here tonight? If
23 anybody is interested in looking where those
24 areas are, they are on the map duly noted.

25 These six non-contiguous properties will be

-PROCEEDINGS-

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2 the only remaining areas of the Town of Monroe
3 Fire Protection District when the new Joint Fire
4 District forms. At that point the Town of Monroe
5 will then contract for fire protection for these
6 non-contiguous properties.

7 The LOSAP Committee did a complete review of
8 the current plans. Determined that the Mombasha
9 Fire Company and the Lakeside Fire Company were
10 using one company and the Harriman Engine Company
11 was using another. In order to move forward
12 these plans must be fully funded and closed
13 before a new plan can be put into place for the
14 newly proposed fire district.

15 This slide is a little bit old. In here it
16 says an intermunicipal agreement was in the
17 process to put together and fully funded, and
18 that has now taken place - these agreements are
19 now in order between the municipalities.

20 The Operations Committee. Again, taking
21 their key segments from their final report, there
22 will be no movement or elimination of apparatus
23 at the start-up of the district.

24 The district line officers will implement a
25 standard set of operational guidelines crafted

-PROCEEDINGS-

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2 from the best practices of all three companies.

3 All medical calls will be handled outside
4 the functions of the district through a direct
5 relationship of interested and qualified
6 firefighters who wish to continue first response
7 activities with MOVAC.

8 District pre-plans will be developed to best
9 utilize the district resources.

10 A system of rotation for the district
11 officers ensuring that the company has their turn
12 to hold the next position of command. When this
13 comes about the candidate must meet all of the
14 qualifications set forth by the district.

15 Coordinated district-wide training will be
16 mandatory.

17 And a unified communication plan will be put
18 in place. And standardization of equipment will
19 also be utilized when possible.

20 The Budget Committee utilized current
21 budgets from the villages and the Town. We
22 utilized current budgets provided by each fire
23 company. We took into consideration the square
24 footage of buildings to determine bay rental,
25 which is what the district will pay to the fire

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companies that own their buildings.

Apparatus replacement schedules were provided extending out 30 years. Large capital projects were also taken into consideration.

And last but not least the start-up expenses were put into the budget as well.

The proposed initial budget as it's set forth right now is coming in with fixed costs of \$1,091,000. Operation and maintenance costs of \$462,935. The first year start-up costs of \$65,000 for a forecasted annual budget right now of \$1,618,935.

I know this is kind of difficult to read, but we have made copies for everybody. If anybody wants to get a copy of this, we did a budget showing 2010 and we took it out two more years to 2011 and 2012. It's actually a mistake. I believe that's supposed to be, Frank, correct me if I am wrong, 2011, '12 and '13, Frank?

MR. SIMEONE: The years should be 2011, 2012 and 2013.

MR. GOLDSTEIN: That's a typo I forgot to change. My apologies.

There was also a sheet prepared for the

-PROCEEDINGS-

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2 close-out strategy on the LOSAP plan. There are
3 copies available of that as well.

4 what does this all mean to us as taxpayers?
5 There is a total of 404,909,000, we can all read
6 the number, and that's broken down into
7 thousands. With the district rate right now, the
8 rate per thousand with this budget the way it's
9 coming in right now, would be \$4 per thousand.

10 we did a little comparison so that everybody
11 can get a general idea of what this really means.
12 The current Town of Monroe tax rate per thousand
13 right now that appears on your bill is \$3.85.
14 This will represent a 4% change in the rate, or
15 approximately \$7.50 on an assessed value of
16 \$50,000.

17 The current Village of Monroe tax rate per
18 thousand is \$2.35. They are looking at a change
19 of approximately 71% or approximately \$82.50 on
20 an assessed value of \$50,000.

21 The Village of Harriman tax rate per
22 thousand currently is \$3.02. They are looking at
23 an approximate change of 33%, for a total of
24 \$47.50 on \$50,000 of assessed value.

25 The proposed capital replacement schedule

-PROCEEDINGS-

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2 that you are looking at now, again I understand
3 it's difficult to read - there are copies up here
4 for everybody's review. Going out 30 years is
5 very difficult to do, but the way we presented
6 this here, we are not bonding anything.

7 Everything is being paid for up front. When the
8 equipment is due and ready, the cash will be
9 there ready to purchase the new equipment, in
10 hopes that there would be no debt into the
11 district.

12 Reasons why we have decided that it's
13 probably best to form a district. One of the
14 more frequently asked questions is; why fixed
15 what's not broken? If you really look deep down
16 into what we have done, there is plenty of things
17 right now that are definitely broken. Some, if
18 not all, of the fire companies are struggling
19 firematically to respond, thus warranting this
20 unified district. Owned structures are in
21 desperate need in repair and modernization
22 including, but not limited to, new OSHA standards
23 and NFPA standards, which individual companies
24 cannot afford to do, thus warranting the
25 district.

-PROCEEDINGS-

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2 Capital equipment reserve funds have been
3 drastically depleted. They are in much need of a
4 unified capital replacement schedule that can be
5 adhered to - thus warranting the district. That
6 being one of the biggest components of the whole
7 thing.

8 As you could see, this is a schedule that we
9 are following. On 10/13, all four municipalities
10 met to call for a public hearing. November 10th,
11 2009, we are here tonight for the public hearing.

12 The approximate dates that we have set forth
13 here of May 1st, 2010, the Board of Fire
14 Commissioners will hold an organizational meeting
15 with two main concerns - one being the budget;
16 two, being the LOSAP plan to the taxpayers.

17 On 10/19, 2010 a public hearing on the
18 proposed budget that will be put forward by the
19 commissioners.

20 December 14, 2010, election of five
21 commissioners will take place.

22 And on January 1st, 2011, operations of the
23 district will begin.

24 I do want to point out that in summer of
25 2010 we will be planning on holding a special

-PROCEEDINGS-

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2 election for the newly proposed LOSAP plan, which
3 does have to be voted on separately.

4 with that, I turn the floor back over to
5 Frank, Sandy. Thank you very much.

6 MR. SIMEONE: Thank you.

7 Before we ask for public comment, I would
8 just like to introduce the five members of the
9 Fact Finding Committee, what I call the Steering
10 Committee. These are the committee chair people,
11 and these are the people who carried the bulk of
12 the workload, and these are the people who it is
13 proposed tonight in the resolutions to be passed,
14 hopefully by the four municipal boards, proposed
15 to be our first appointed Board of Fire
16 Commissioners. You heard Rich tell you about an
17 election that will be held on December 14th of
18 2010, which is the election date, second Tuesday
19 of December, and every year for fire district
20 elections throughout the state. At that time
21 there will be elected five new commissioners.
22 The person who gets the most votes will have a
23 five year term, all the way down to a one year
24 term. And thereafter a new commissioner will be
25 elected every year at an annual fire district

-PROCEEDINGS-

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2 election to a five year term.

3 Because there is business to be conducted,
4 such as Rich just described before, such as
5 adopting a budget, resolving the LOSAP issues,
6 because those issues have to be resolved before
7 operations commence, the determinations that we
8 prepared for tonight include the appointment of
9 those five chair people of the Steering
10 Committee. And I would just like to introduce
11 them tonight. They are Tom Lowe, Tom Carton, Len
12 Leonick, Tom Smith and Tom Sullivan, and they are
13 seated at the far end of the table.

14 with that said --

15 SUPERVISOR LEONARD: Could I just ask each
16 one of the boards to make sure that before you go
17 home tonight, you supply our stenographer with
18 the names of each of the individuals that made
19 the motions of the second, because I don't think
20 he was able to get all the correct names. And
21 that's the only comment I wanted to make, so,
22 thank you.

23 Just so we can get an idea of what we are
24 going to be looking at, could we just see a show
25 of hands of how many people wish to speak this

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evening?

MR. SIMEONE: Come on up and state your name and we will be glad to hear your comments.

MR. BROWN: He even does this to me at Town Board meetings.

My name is Bill Brown. I am a member of Lakeside Fire Company for 43 years in the fire company. And I have dealt with most of the offices and everything else that are in there, so I am a little bit up on the fire service.

And I would like to say hello to everybody here, ladies and gentlemen. And for the people in the back, I am sorry you are looking at my back, but I can't be in both directions at once.

I have a couple of questions, which may be statements, because I understand maybe we are not going to throw questions back and forth here. We may not be have the answers right now.

One of my concerns is for my people that are in the fire company with the LOSAP. I am not sure whether everybody here is familiar with what we are talking about when we say LOSAP.

When we joined these fire companies years ago, we joined the fire company to help the

-PROCEEDINGS-

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2 community. We didn't look for anything, we
3 didn't want anything, except to do the best we
4 could and be whoever we were.

5 well, somewhere along the line, insurance
6 companies came along and said, look, what we will
7 do when you guys reach the age of 65 if you got
8 20 years in the fire company, we will give you a
9 little stipend at the end, okay? Some of the
10 fire companies got \$200, some got 400. Some I
11 understand have a rotating thing where they can
12 add a little more to it at certain times. At
13 Lakeside we happen to have \$200.

14 well, I never liked the way it worked in the
15 first place. I have a man sitting behind me here
16 with 57 years in the company and because LOSAP
17 came in, it only vested him with five years, he
18 gets \$50 and, you know, after 57 years in the
19 company.

20 Now, what I am concerned with is when this
21 thing gets put to bed that we have on both sides,
22 or all three fire companies, what's the chance
23 that these guys are going to lose even that while
24 it's being pushed around back and forth? Because
25 we get what we get now. And if it stopped, it's

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no more.

Now the new insurance company has no dealings with us old guys that have been in there for years. And for people in these fire companies that have members that have been in there for a long long time and even with their \$50, I hate to see them lose it. And I haven't been able to get an answer from anybody telling me that it's safe or not safe or whatever.

And, you know, like I said, we didn't ask for this originally, but we have it now. We want to know what's going on.

Because I look at it this way; we get a youngster in the firehouse right now, comes in at the age of 18 years old, 20 years old. He does his 20 years. Well, he can't take his LOSAP until he's 65 years old anyway.

And, you know, half the time they don't really care. They will make their 20 years, the last 20 years if they decide to stay in there. But the other people that did their time and broke their butts, I would hate to see them lose out.

MR. SIMEONE: May I respond?

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MR. BROWN: Sure.

MR. SIMEONE: Thank you. I will begin by saying that it is my intention to answer your questions. But if any of the five members of the Steering Committee there wish to expand upon my comments, just show a hand and I will be glad to recognize you.

Len Leonick is the -- he was the head of the subcommittee in charge of reviewing LOSAP, but I will just give you a broad overview, okay?

MR. BROWN: Sure.

MR. SIMEONE: First of all, your objection is to a five year buy back, which was the first thing you talked about, the gentleman seated behind you.

MR. BROWN: Exactly.

MR. SIMEONE: That is a limitation placed on any LOSAP program in the state by the State legislature. The plans that you had put in, and there were three different plans put in by the three fire companies - the plans that were put in, and I have reviewed them, all complied with state law to the extent of giving the maximum buy back that could be allowed, which was five years.

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2 The enabling statute passed by the State only
3 allowed that. So there was nothing that could be
4 done about that. Let me just finish --

5 MR. BROWN: Go ahead.

6 MR. SIMEONE: To answer your other
7 questions: You expressed a concern, and I
8 appreciate it, but you asked are your present
9 rights safe? Will there be a forfeiture? No,
10 there will not. Your rights are safe.

11 what's going to happen with the LOSAP plans
12 for the past, the plans that already exist, the
13 ones that were established by these municipal
14 boards previously for the three fire companies?
15 Those plans are going to what's known as lapse.
16 In other words, rights existing up to this point
17 will continue in existence. And in fact part of
18 the negotiations that had to be worked out by
19 these municipal boards in getting us to this
20 point was a funding of those programs so that
21 they would be allowed to lapse while covering
22 whatever entitlements have been earned up to this
23 point. So that takes care of what happened in
24 the past, current existing plans.

25 Now let's quickly talk about what's going to

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2 happen as to the future. If you look in the
3 budget that's been prepared for 2011, 2012 and
4 2013. We begin in 2011 with a service award of
5 \$180,000, and that increases by a percentage
6 every year for 2012 and 2013. That has not yet
7 been approved. That will depend upon voter
8 approval. And that's one of the things we need a
9 Board of Fire Commissioners to do between May
10 when they take office and January 1st, 2011 when
11 operations begin. What they will do, and this
12 figure was not just pulled out of thin air, Len's
13 committee worked hard to figure out what a plan
14 would cost us to go forward - and by the way,
15 there would be no buy back, but if you consider
16 the lapsed plans, or the plans that are going to
17 lapse, there is no need for a buy back. This is
18 a new Joint Fire District, service will only
19 begin January 1st, 2011 by any volunteers. It is
20 going to be proposed at an election sometime next
21 summer for the voters to approve a LOSAP plan to
22 go forward from that time, from January 1st,
23 2011, going forward, an entirely new plan. And
24 we have estimated, and that's all it is, but we
25 think it's a good estimate, \$180,000 for that

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plan.

So, we think we have done this in a way that preserves the rights that you had in the past. And we also have done it, we think we have also done it the only way possible, assuming the voters approve it next summer, to provide a LOSAP program for the future.

Does that answer your questions?

MR. BROWN: It answers my question. And make no mistake, I want to clear something up here, I'm not -- I wasn't trying to complain about the five year buy back. What I was trying to do was bring some people up to speed exactly how this thing was working. Because I am well -- I was one of the first people in my firehouse to fight for a LOSAP as it was. And believe me, I don't get the whole thing now, and I mean that's okay because I say we didn't join this system we are in here for any kind of money being paid or anything else. We do it because maybe we are stupid, I don't know, but we do it. And I see faces around this room here that I have been in the fire service with for years, and we have always done it. We were not looking for anything

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to come back.

The point is that I wanted to be sure what was out there was protected. And what I still am looking at, and you are telling me that we are going to go to a vote on this probably in the summer.

Now, we talk about the public. The public don't care about the fire companies, what we do. They never come out to the elections. It's up to us to take care of what goes on and whatever, so, you know, I just don't want to have this thing dropped and then something fouls up in the middle and then there is none.

MR. SIMEONE: You have those five proposed to be appointed commissioners to your right, and I think you will recognize those people as people who have been very involved in the fire service. And as you probably appreciate, fire district elections are open to the public. But it is true, as you have indicated, that it's often just firefighters who vote. So, if firefighters come out and vote for the LOSAP plan, it should be passed going forward. Going in the past, your plans will not be lost.

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Did you want to say something else, Len?
You might want to grab a mike if you can.

MR. LEONICK: Thank you, Frank. You've covered basically all of the issues with the old plans and then the new plans moving on. But just to let Bill know, it's always been the intention of this proposed board that every fireman be covered and everyone remain whole.

So the plans had to be funded up to December 31st, 2010 - that's been done. And then we have to go to the electorate; ask them for a new plan, we will put it out to them, and then we will start day one. We have to do it that way by law and that's our intention. That's been our plan all along.

MR. BROWN: Lenny, I understand that. You can understand where I am coming from where a lot of things get lost in the shuffle, and I just want to make sure this is one thing that doesn't get lost. And, you know, I am not looking out for myself. I am looking out for -- well, you guys know how many people are in your companies with this. There is a lot of people out here.

MR. LEONICK: There is 111 guys to be

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specific, 111 guys to be covered.

MR. BROWN: That's not a small piece of change when it comes to volunteers in the Town of Monroe - 111 people there.

Anyway, the last thing I have is just a comment; again, you people that are here, these gentlemen know me around, I have been in this fire service forever and a lot of subcommittees throughout the county in one thing or another. I want to see this thing work. The problem that I have, though, is we still, in certain areas, and I am not looking for it tonight, but there is certain areas where we still have a lot of questions of what's going on.

We have minutes that come from the meetings, and one thing or another, but sometimes it's hard to sit down and actually dig into some of the little stuff.

I get asked a lot of things, okay? I get asked a lot of things in my neighborhood, I get asked a lot of things by my fireman, I get asked a lot of things. Maybe they come to me more than they come to the officers sometimes. I know Tommy is the chief up there, he thinks I am a

-PROCEEDINGS-

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2 pain in the neck because I am always annoying
3 him.

4 MR. SIMEONE: Mr. Brown, if I could cut you
5 off because you are running well past your time,
6 but you remind me of something I neglected to
7 mention. The new Board of Fire Commissioners,
8 like any of the boards up here, will be a public
9 body that will act in public; its meetings will
10 be held in public; there will be Open Meetings
11 Law requirements, just as there is with any of
12 these boards.

13 I am sure I can speak for these five future
14 commissioners, we hope, that your participation
15 at meetings and the participation of anyone from
16 any of the fire companies as one of the member
17 departments of this new district is welcomed,
18 encouraged.

19 MR. BROWN: well, I thank you very much.
20 And like I say I always -- that was a question I
21 wanted to ask whether these were going to be open
22 meetings.

23 MR. SIMEONE: Yes, sir.

24 MR. BROWN: well, you can't ask for more
25 than that. And I will rescind my time now so

-PROCEEDINGS-

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2 somebody else can talk, if they want to. I
3 didn't see a whole bunch of people waving around
4 back here, but maybe they want to.

5 Thank you very much.

6 MR. SIMEONE: Thank you, sir.

7 MR. FURBECK: My name is Rob Furbeck. I am
8 a resident of the Town of Monroe and a member of
9 the Mombasha Fire Company.

10 I prepared a statement. This is something
11 that I want to read just so I can express myself,
12 and I don't even have to -- I am not even
13 expecting any comment back.

14 I have been an active member of the Mombasha
15 Fire Company for nearly 23 years. During that
16 time and before, there have been many discussions
17 about forming a Joint Fire District.

18 As we are about to initiate a formal
19 designation of the Joint Fire District, I have
20 several important items that must be discussed
21 before the appointment of initial fire district
22 commissioners by the boards.

23 Tonight I am representing myself as a single
24 person and do not specifically represent the
25 thoughts and views of the Mombasha Fire Company.

-PROCEEDINGS-

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2 It is my understanding the five member panel
3 of the Fact Finding Committee, which are all
4 active firearm among the three departments have
5 been instrumental in all the work done to date to
6 form this district. I would like to thank them
7 for their hard work and effort.

8 Further, it is my understanding that each
9 may become the initial appointed fire
10 commissioners designated by the boards this
11 evening, with the operations aspect expected to
12 begin May 3rd, 2010.

13 After a discussion at my last monthly
14 meeting with my peers, and in previous discussion
15 with the Fact Finding Committee in early
16 September, I am having trouble with this specific
17 aspect of the appointment and formation of the
18 initial fire commissioners. Both the Lakeside
19 Fire and Rescue and the Harriman Engine Company
20 have representation with two members from each
21 company on the initial Board of Commissioners,
22 with the Mombasha Fire Company only having one
23 representative, providing a total of five
24 commissioners.

25 The initial appointed commissioners will be

-PROCEEDINGS-

1
2 responsible and pass the work for laying the
3 foundation for the district. The foundation will
4 be followed by all three fire companies
5 memberships for years to come.

6 It is important for the Mombasha Fire
7 Company to be properly and equally represented on
8 the initial Board of Fire Commissioners before
9 these appointments are determined tonight.

10 The appointed commissioners will lay the
11 foundation from this date for the period of the
12 public election of fire district commissioners
13 scheduled in December of 2010.

14 The reasons I feel the Mombasha Fire Company
15 needs to be represented with at least two
16 commissioners are the following: The Mombasha
17 Fire Company represents the largest portion of
18 active volunteers being incorporated into this
19 new Joint Fire District. One of the other fire
20 companies here tonight I believe may only have
21 less than 20 active members, but still may have
22 two representatives on the appointed Board of
23 Commissioners after tonight.

24 The Mombasha Fire Company currently
25 completes the most calls for service amongst the

-PROCEEDINGS-

1
2 three organizations. And it would only seem
3 logical to have the hardest working company at
4 least be provided two representatives on the
5 initial Board of Fire Commissioners.

6 whether the three fire company memberships
7 or the Town Board wants to admit, over the years
8 there has always been animosity against the
9 Mombasha Fire Company from each of the other
10 groups. Having unequal representation at the
11 start against the Mombasha Fire Company only
12 exposes this prejudice.

13 The two other fire companies, Lakeside and
14 Harriman, will express that they should have
15 representation of a 2 to 1 ratio as they fear
16 their giant rival. I believe this is just plain
17 unfair.

18 Two representatives from each of the other
19 fire companies being represented on the initial
20 Board of Commissioners just frankly puts the
21 Mombasha Fire Company at a disadvantage in
22 regards to policy making and any type of voting
23 power.

24 Our sole representative of the Fact Finding
25 Committee indicated to the membership of the

-PROCEEDINGS-

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2 Mombasha Fire Company to support the formation of
3 the district, as it would be advantageous to our
4 company, as we would have a more controlling
5 factor into the operations of the new district.
6 with all due respect, without any voting equality
7 or power, how can this occur?

8 Issues brought before the Fact Finding
9 Committee in September by me were heard, but many
10 of these issues cannot be answered and were
11 deferred to the formation of the actual board of
12 the district fire commissioners.

13 One important issue is the disbursement of
14 2% monies received by the state. I believe these
15 monies are important to offset costs faced by
16 each fire company. I believe it should be
17 dispersed the same way it is currently dispersed
18 among Zone 1, Zone 2 and Zone 3, with each
19 department getting the percentage received from
20 their specific protection zone.

21 The Fact Finding Committee had suggested
22 dispersing these funds evenly, with each company
23 receiving 1/3rd of the total funds.

24 The views of this committee appear not to be
25 advantageous to the Mombasha Fire Company.

-PROCEEDINGS-

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2 Other areas of importance are the formation
3 terms and rotation of district chiefs. I hear of
4 grandfather clauses were being discussed. That
5 sound ridiculous. If district officers cannot
6 meet the strict requirements proposed by the Fact
7 Finding Committee, then maybe the requirements
8 need to be reviewed, amended, or all grandfather
9 clauses be removed.

10 The LOSAP program. As of December 2010 the
11 current LOSAP system being funded for the three
12 separate companies will be discontinued. During
13 2010 a public referendum vote will have to occur
14 to establish one new retirement system together
15 amongst the three companies. With tough economic
16 times I could see the public voting against the
17 LOSAP system for the volunteer fireman. I
18 strongly suggest the support of all the boards to
19 remind voters how important this program is to
20 retain membership in these volunteer fire
21 companies.

22 All three fire companies have a lot to lose
23 by forming this district should a new LOSAP
24 program not be approved by the voters.

25 The board should consider the cost of the

-PROCEEDINGS-

1
2 district. With economic times being what they
3 are today, it should be expected for a cost to
4 remain a minimum.

5 will employees of the district such as a
6 paid secretary or financial officer remain
7 part-time? Will there be additional salaries,
8 stipends or health insurance provided to
9 employees or commissioners. These are the costs
10 the initial Board of Fire Commissioners must
11 determine and decide upon at the implementation
12 of the district.

13 Overall I have been told the Mombasha Fire
14 Company and the Village of Monroe can no longer
15 afford not to become a part of a joint fire
16 district. The new district commissioners must
17 remember to be fiscally responsible.

18 Last week after meeting with my peers at the
19 Mombasha Fire Company I suggested that if a
20 second member was appointed to represent the
21 Mombasha Fire Company on the initial Board of
22 Fire Commissioners, I believe it should be Rich
23 Goldstein. Rich assisted the Fact Finding
24 Committee with providing valuable information in
25 the areas of assets and budgetary concerns. I

-PROCEEDINGS-

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2 believe he would provide a fair, impartial
3 addition to the five member board as an
4 additional representative from the Mombasha Fire
5 Company.

6 To disregarding consideration concerning the
7 second representative from the Mombasha Fire
8 Company being appointed to the original Board of
9 Fire Commissioners would be a significant error
10 and an irresponsible decision on that of all the
11 boards.

12 Thank you for your consideration.

13 MR. SIMEONE: Mr. Furbeck, I will try to
14 honor your request and not respond.

15 Thank you for your comments. Anyone else?

16 MR. MATTEO: My name is Dan Matteo. I am a
17 retired New York City firefighter.

18 I am going to try to make this short.

19 In current economic times it's important to
20 seek out ways to promote financial relief for the
21 residents. Consolidation of town and village
22 services, if done wisely, can be a good way of
23 achieving this objective. And consolidation of
24 fire districts I think is a good start.

25 But I want to bring something to your

-PROCEEDINGS-

1
2 attention tonight. If you do consolidate fire
3 districts, I believe to get the full advantage of
4 financial relief here, you have to implement
5 stronger resident oversight.

6 In Town Law manual chapter 9, Fire
7 Protection. After it's created, the fire
8 district becomes in fact an independent unit of
9 government possessing independent taxing,
10 borrowing and purchasing powers.

11 what you are going to create with the fire
12 district is another unit of government within a
13 government.

14 what you mentioned before about low voter
15 participation in fire elections is true, but it's
16 not all apathy why the voter turn out is low. In
17 Goshen there is four separate units of
18 government; you have the Town Board, you got a
19 school board, we have a library board, and we
20 have a fire district. For the residents to
21 monitor all the activities of these boards, they
22 will have to be going to meeting after meeting
23 after meeting, all right? People are working,
24 they have families, they don't have time for
25 that.

-PROCEEDINGS-

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2 So there is something to consider here. If
3 you do consolidate, do you want another
4 government within a government, or is there
5 another way of doing this?

6 In April 2007 Governor Spitzer established
7 by executive order a New York State Commission on
8 Local Government and Efficiency and
9 Competitiveness. It was a 15 member board to
10 conduct a review and analysis of New York's local
11 government structure and operations and made
12 recommendation on ways to improve the
13 effectiveness and efficiency of local government.

14 Without getting into that report, I just
15 want to say it behooves the people in this room
16 to go on line and look at the conclusions of that
17 report and see what they say about fire
18 protection in New York state. It's LGEC New
19 York.

20 My opinion, I don't think we need five fire
21 commissioners. In New York City we had one fire
22 commissioner and we had a chief of operations,
23 and he told that fire commissioner what he
24 needed. That fire commissioner was a civilian.
25 And the fire commissioner would bring it to the

-PROCEEDINGS-

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2 attention of the board and if he felt it deemed
3 worthy, they would vote on it and the outcome
4 would either be for what was requested or it was
5 not. I would like to see something like that up
6 here; one fire commissioner, one chief of the
7 firehouse. The fire chief tells the fire
8 commissioner what you need. This fire
9 commissioner sits on the Town Board and he will
10 go over it with the rest of the Town Board. And
11 if they deem it warranted, they will vote on it
12 and the results will be either for what was
13 requested or it will be against.

14 That's my opinion on this.

15 MR. SIMEONE: Thank you, sir. Would you
16 spell your last name for me, please.

17 MR. MATTEO: M-a-t-t-e-o.

18 SUPERVISOR LEONARD: Thank you very much.

19 Again, the commissioners are welcome to
20 respond. Just show your hand if you would like
21 to.

22 My only reaction or response would be to
23 point out that by statute a fire commissioner
24 serves without compensation. So the volunteer
25 service, if you will, will continue at the

-PROCEEDINGS-

1
2 commissioner level, and I don't think that's ever
3 going to change. There is something, some 800
4 fire districts in the State of New York. They
5 are all served by commissioners who receive no
6 compensation for their work. Yes, there would be
7 a paid secretary and a paid treasurer, and you
8 will see those numbers in the budget, again, just
9 proposed.

10 Tom?

11 MR. SULLIVAN: Along with the paid secretary
12 and paid treasurer, let it be known to the
13 public, there is no full-time position there, so
14 there is no benefits such as health insurance or
15 vacation or anything else. It's a stipend
16 basically that's being paid for the treasurer and
17 the secretary of the district. It's not a
18 full-time position. So I don't want anybody out
19 thinking this could be a full-time job and
20 somebody could be going home with lots of money
21 in the bank - that's not what's going to happen.

22 SUPERVISOR LEONARD: Any other, Mr. Brown,
23 maybe you can wait to see if someone else wants
24 to make a comment. Anyone else would like to
25 speak?

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You may as well come up, Mr. Brown.

MR. BROWN: Just one quick question on that, and young Mr. Furbeck's point was well taken before. I had asked about this years ago and Mr. Matteo is going to kill me over here, but I understood in the State of New York that some of the fire districts actually have seven members. And now that being said, with a seven member fire commission, that would give each fire company two and an outsider. And maybe this is something that ought to be thought about if in fact Mombasha feels that they are on the low end of the spectrum here. I see no difference between 7 and 5 in getting anything done. Personally, these guys -- they are five, but it might be a thought to think about seven. Now you have got 2, 2, 2, and 1 extra. So, just something to think about.

MR. SIMEONE: Thank you, Mr. Brown.

Anyone else?

MR. SCOLZA: My name is Bill Scolza, I am a village of Monroe resident and a member of the Mombasha Fire Company.

A couple of points brought out today, I do

-PROCEEDINGS-

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2 see that Mombasha Fire Company being one of the
3 largest fire companies in the area. We do
4 maintain two fire houses. We do have the most
5 membership, do run the most calls. So I do agree
6 with Mr. Furbeck, we should have bigger
7 representation.

8 Going along with the 2% money, additional
9 monies to pay for support, and the overruns,
10 fixing the buildings, should not be split equally
11 if we have bigger expenses. So I would like that
12 under consideration.

13 If on the capital reserve plan they do think
14 we have a 30 year replacement of trucks, you
15 agree with the plan, why don't you just finance
16 the plan without the district, if you agree with
17 the numbers? Just something I pose to the
18 boards.

19 Those are the main concerns still
20 outstanding and never really got an answer.

21 Thank you.

22 MR. SIMEONE: Thank you, sir.

23 I would just point out that the difficulty
24 with the -- well, maybe I just want to address
25 the issue of seven commissioners if I may.

-PROCEEDINGS-

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2 First, it is true a Joint Fire District,
3 which this is, can have anywhere between 3 and 7
4 commissioners. It was my suggestion that you
5 operate with a five person board because it makes
6 it nice and neat in terms of one commissioner
7 whose term expires every year and then someone
8 else, or that same person to run for a five year
9 term.

10 There is no magic in the number 7, there is
11 no magic in the number 5. My experience has been
12 that a 5 person board works well because it takes
13 a quorum of 3 to discuss any business.

14 with respect to the importance, if you will,
15 of Mombasha, if there are more volunteers from
16 Mombasha, or more residents, I should say,
17 taxpayers, who show up at the election, very
18 possibly you will have more commissioners from
19 Mombasha.

20 You may have what I call pure taxpayers -
21 commissioners who are unrelated to any fire
22 department. The only requirements for a person
23 to be a commissioner is that they be 18 years of
24 age and reside in the district both at the time
25 of their election and throughout the time of

-PROCEEDINGS-

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2 their service as commissioner. You do not have
3 to be affiliated with any fire company. And I
4 know many fire districts just by tradition have 2
5 or 3 or more commissioners out of 5 who are not
6 affiliated with any fire company.

7 Those are things to be decided by the voters
8 eventually. I think that's the way democracy
9 works.

10 Anyone else? Any comments?

11 we should maybe call one more time. Are
12 there any comments of the public hearing of the
13 formation of the establishment of a Monroe Joint
14 Fire District?

15 Hearing none, I will ask Supervisor Leonard
16 to close her part of the hearing and we will go
17 along.

18 SUPERVISOR LEONARD: I would like to have a
19 motion to close the public hearing, but I would
20 like the person who makes the motion and the
21 second to state your name so that the
22 stenographer can get it clearly, so please do it
23 slowly enough.

24 COUNCILMAN MARTIN: I will make that motion,
25 Peter Martin.

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SUPERVISOR LEONARD: Do I hear a second?

COUNCILMAN ROGERS: Second. Jim Rogers.

SUPERVISOR LEONARD: Don, shall we vote?

COUNCILMAN WEEKS: Vote.

SUPERVISOR LEONARD: Are you saying aye?

COUNCILMAN WEEKS: Aye.

COUNCILMAN ROGERS: Aye.

COUNCILMAN MARTIN: Aye.

COUNCIL DOLES: Aye.

SUPERVISOR LEONARD: Aye. Thank you.

MR. SIMEONE: Supervisor Burke, Town of
Woodbury.

SUPERVISOR BURKE: I ask for a motion for us
to move forward on the question.

COUNCILMAN HAVILAND: I will make the motion
to close the hearing. Amidee Haviland.

COUNCILMAN LEVINE: I will second it.
Carlton Levine.

SUPERVISOR BURKE: All in favor?

COUNCILMAN HAVILAND: Aye.

COUNCILMAN SKOUFIS: Aye.

COUNCILMAN LEVINE: Aye.

SUPERVISOR BURKE: Aye.

MR. SIMEONE: Mayor Karl, Village of Monroe.

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MAYOR KARL: I need a motion to close the meeting.

TRUSTEE LESSER: I move to close the meeting. Charles Lesser.

TRUSTEE PURCELL: Second. Jim Purcell.

MAYOR KARL: Call the question. Those in favor?

TRUSTEE GORMLEY: Aye.

TRUSTEE CHAN: Aye.

TRUSTEE LESSER: Aye.

TRUSTEE PURCELL: Aye.

MAYOR KARL: And those opposed?

(NO RESPONSE.)

MAYOR KARL: So carried.

MR. SIMEONE: And Mayor Welle, Village of Harriman?

MAYOR WELLE: I will take a motion to close the public hearing?

TRUSTEE SHUART: I will make that motion. Ed Shuart.

TRUSTEE CHICHESTER: Second. Bruce Chichester.

MAYOR WELLE: Call the question.

All in favor?

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TRUSTEE SACHER: Aye.

TRUSTEE SHUART: Aye.

TRUSTEE MOSCA: Aye.

TRUSTEE CHICHESTER: Aye.

MAYOR WELLE: Opposed?

(NO RESPONSE.)

MAYOR WELLE: So carried.

MR. SIMEONE: Next item of business has to do with the action by the Town of Monroe, which was designated lead agency at last month's meeting to take action under the State Environmental Quality Review Act with respect to the proposed actions.

Those proposed actions being, on the part of the Town of Monroe, dissolution of the existing fire protection district; on the part of the Town of Monroe, the creation or establishment of a new fire protection district; and on the part of all four municipal boards, the establishment of the Joint Fire District.

Supervisor Leonard.

SUPERVISOR LEONARD: I need a motion then to declare lead agency under S.E.Q.R.A. with a negative declaration for all actions.

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COUNCILMAN MARTIN: So move.

SUPERVISOR LEONARD: That's Peter Martin.

COUNCILMAN WEEKS: Second.

SUPERVISOR LEONARD: Seconded by Don weeks.

Call the question.

COUNCILMAN MARTIN: Aye.

COUNCILMAN ROGERS: Aye.

COUNCILMAN WEEKS: Aye.

COUNCILMAN DOLES: Aye.

SUPERVISOR LEONARD: Aye.

MR. SIMEONE: Now we will move to the action of the determinations by each of the four municipal boards.

These are determinations which the board members have received and have in folders before them. I will point out that each of these determinations like the action of the Town of Monroe with respect to its separate actions are subject to permissive referendum and notices will be published in that regard as soon as we have passage on the determination for the resolution this evening.

So, I would like to ask the Town of woodbury to take its action on a determination to

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establishment of Joint Fire District.

SUPERVISOR BURKE: One of our board members would like to ask a question if that's permitted.

MR. SIMEONE: Absolutely.

SUPERVISOR BURKE: James?

COUNCILMAN SKOUFIS: I just had a question about the district tax rate and I will only reference Harriman because that's really the only people we represent here in the Town of Woodbury Board. The slide up that we showed before showed an 80 something percent increase over what's currently being taxed for Harriman. And just some back of the envelope math, a \$300,000 house, that's about \$1,000 increase for the people that live there. I am curious when you suggested it's going to be long term cost benefits from this consolidation, what -- how long is it going to take for that to equalize is my question.

MR. SIMEONE: Well, I will ask to Rich to comment on this because I am now parroting something what he said. I thought what he said there was a 30%, roughly 30% increase for the taxpayers of the village of Harriman. And he did that based -- and then he gave a figure of 45 or

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\$50.

MR. GOLDSTEIN: I don't have the exact percentage, without looking at the slide. But the figures that I put forward were based on a house that was assessed at \$50,000. And if I remember correctly it's a \$47.50 increase to the village of Harriman.

COUNCILMAN SKOUFIS: Okay.

MR. SIMEONE: And that was based on the 33%, roughly 1/3rd increase. The tax rate for the residents of the village of Harriman would be going roughly from I think \$3.02, was the figure Rich had, to the \$4 unified rate it will be throughout the district.

MR. GOLDSTEIN: That's correct.

COUNCILMAN SKOUFIS: I must have been mistake then. I apologize.

Thank you.

MR. SIMEONE: Of course.

SUPERVISOR BURKE: Frank, do I have to read this whole item like I did the last time?

MR. SIMEONE: well, the documents are before you and had been before the board members. If you just wanted to go through it in a summary

-PROCEEDINGS-

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2 fashion and ask that the Town Board members
3 follow along with you. About the necessity of
4 reading the whole resolution, I think that would
5 be sufficient.

6 SUPERVISOR BURKE: Well, for myself, I just
7 want to thank all the members, including Frank,
8 who did listen to our suggestion at the last
9 meeting and include in our packet this evening
10 the exact boundaries of what the Woodbury fire
11 group would begin with in terms of the Thruway.
12 So I do appreciate it. It has now been
13 memorialized. So I do appreciate that.

14 The board members, any questions? No?

15 Okay, then I am going to ask the members of
16 the board for a motion to declare the
17 determination establishing the Monroe Joint Fire
18 District as an action by the Town of Woodbury
19 Board. May I have a motion?

20 COUNCILMAN HAVILAND: Amidee Haviland. I
21 will make that motion.

22 MR. LEONICK: I will second, Carlton Levine.

23 SUPERVISOR BURKE: All in favor?

24 COUNCILMAN HAVILAND: Aye.

25 COUNCILMAN LEVINE: Aye.

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COUNCILMAN SKOUFIS: Aye.

SUPERVISOR BURKE: Aye.

MR. SIMEONE: Thank you.

Village of Harriman?

MAYOR WELLE: The Board has back in front of them, as it has been discussed. I would need a motion to accept the determinations establishing the Monroe Joint Fire District as outlined.

TRUSTEE SHUART: I will make that motion, Ed Shuart.

TRUSTEE CHICHESTER: Second. Bruce Chichester.

MAYOR WELLE: Call the question. All in favor?

TRUSTEE SHUART: Aye.

TRUSTEE SACHER: Aye.

TRUSTEE CHICHESTER: Aye.

TRUSTEE MOSCA: Aye.

MAYOR WELLE: Opposed?

(NO RESPONSE.)

MAYOR WELLE: So carried.

MR. SIMEONE: Now I will ask the village of Monroe.

TRUSTEE PURCELL: Can I ask a question

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before we proceed?

MR. SIMEONE: Of course.

TRUSTEE PURCELL: Just real quick, Frank. Once, and if the fire district is formed, can the district expand on the amount of commissioners after appointments start?

SUPERVISOR LEONARD: No, that is a determination that should be made at the time of the establishment.

TRUSTEE PURCELL: And just to confirm with the appointed fire commissioners they will be getting ready to SOP's LOSAP, the chief's position criterias and budget, that will all be in the preparation for the kick-off for the district, am I correct?

MR. SIMEONE: Yes.

TRUSTEE PURCELL: Thank you.

TRUSTEE CHAN: Once the criteria set here for the chief and the SOP's, after the new board of commissioners get in that are elected, that could always be changed, is that correct?

MR. SIMEONE: Those are items that can be changed. I don't know if any of the commissioners want to speak to that -- proposed

-PROCEEDINGS-

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2 commissioners, because that would be something
3 that was covered by the Operations Committee and
4 that was Tom Lowe from Harriman who was on that,
5 who chaired that committee.

6 MR. LOWE: My name is Tom Lowe. I am chief
7 of the Harriman Engine Company.

8 This will come up several times about once
9 the commissioners that get appointed and the
10 subcommittees that are working on the Operations
11 Committee, particularly, put the framework in
12 place when the district starts, the new
13 commissioners could just come in and wipe the
14 whole thing out.

15 We are working very very hard in cooperation
16 with all three companies to make sure that that
17 does not happen. Vinny Tankasali, Tom Carton and
18 myself have been meeting and we have gotten our
19 assistant chiefs involved and we are hoping that
20 everybody that is forming the foundation for
21 operations for the new district moving forward is
22 going to live up to what we put down on paper.

23 Those subcommittees got enough information
24 together so that we can get to this point. We,
25 by no means, have made a lot of final decisions

-PROCEEDINGS-

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2 that how the operations is going to handle. We
3 are working on response plans. We are working on
4 the revision of box alarms. We are working on
5 how we are going to do response to calls. All of
6 that still has to be figured out. And Monroe
7 being almost the lead agency has been very
8 instrumental in helping us decide how we are
9 going to do this.

10 So, we believe that it's not going to be
11 changed after the district starts, but I don't
12 want anybody to walk out of here tonight thinking
13 that, you know, if we are get a whole new batch
14 of commissioners in there, they are not going to
15 pull something that we hadn't intended.

16 MAYOR KARL: Okay. At this time I am
17 looking for a motion to accept the determination
18 in relation to approving the establishment of
19 Monroe Joint Fire District.

20 TRUSTEE PURCELL: I will make that motion.

21 MAYOR KARL: I have a motion by Trustee
22 Purcell.

23 TRUSTEE LESSER: I will second it.

24 MAYOR KARL: Second by Trustee Lesser.

25 call the question. All those in favor?

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TRUSTEE GORMLEY: Aye.

TRUSTEE CHAN: Aye.

TRUSTEE GORMLEY: Aye.

TRUSTEE LESSER: Aye.

TRUSTEE PURCELL: Aye.

MAYOR KARL: Aye.

Those opposed?

(NO RESPONSE.)

MAYOR KARL: So carried.

MR. SIMEONE: Thank you, Mayor Karl.

Turn the mike over to Supervisor Leonard and ask her to direct the actions of the Town of Monroe, which there are really two separate actions, the first being the dissolution of the existing fire protection district - that has to be done by local law. I point out that in the resolutions that are before you, that will only take place in the event of the establishment of the Joint Fire District, which once the Town does that, that will finalize it, as we have three boards that have acted favorably to this point.

SUPERVISOR LEONARD: Gentlemen, I need a motion, determinations to dissolve the presently existing fire protection district as presented by

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Local Law.

COUNCILMAN MARTIN: So move.

COUNCILMAN WEEKS: Second.

SUPERVISOR LEONARD: That was Peter Martin
and Don Weeks.

SUPERVISOR LEONARD: The second was Mr.
weeks.

call the question.

COUNCILMAN WEEKS: Aye.

COUNCILMAN MARTIN: Aye.

COUNCILMAN ROGERS: Aye.

COUNCILMAN DOLES: Aye.

SUPERVISOR LEONARD: Okay. And then I need
a motion for the determination to establish a new
fire protection district for non-contiguous
properties and determinations establishing the
Monroe Joint Fire District.

COUNCILMAN WEEKS: So move.

COUNCILMAN MARTIN: Second.

SUPERVISOR LEONARD: That's Mr. Weeks and
then Mr. Martin.

Thank you, gentlemen.

May I call the question?

COUNCILMAN WEEKS: Aye.

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COUNCILMAN MARTIN: Aye.

COUNCILMAN ROGERS: Aye.

COUNCILMAN DOLES: Aye.

SUPERVISOR LEONARD: Aye.

MR. SIMEONE: Thank you very much.

I believe this culminates a substantial body of work by many individuals. And I would like to thank the members of the municipal board who are here tonight for making this painless.

And it's my belief that this is a very important step toward continuing good government in this community and I wish you all luck with it.

SUPERVISOR LEONARD: I would just like to thank all of the boards and all of the fire commissioners. This has been a very very long time in coming.

I know it's a step that we take forward carefully with some trepidation, but I think that everybody sitting here tonight has a great deal of confidence in the five gentlemen that are sitting to my left.

I also want to thank Rich Goldstein for putting in the time that you did with the budget.

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And I wondered if any of the fire commissioners elect would like to say anything?

MR. SULLIVAN: On behalf of the four gentlemen and myself sitting here that have worked the last 3 and 1/2 years, we want to thank everybody in this room for their support from all three fire companies and the men we work with. Certainly we thank the support of the elected officials in the towns and villages that believe this is the right thing to do for the taxpayers.

And this is not something that anybody sitting here takes lightly, or plans on slighting any particular fire company or individuals.

We five gentlemen have thought, disagreed, many times stayed in the room until we came to a consensus that was fair to everybody. And I believe that's the way it will go forward from this point forward. And it's up to the individuals sitting in this room; the taxpayers in the Town of Monroe to put forth whoever they feel are the right commissioners when it comes time for election.

In the next ten, eleven months that it takes to form this fire district and put it before you

-PROCEEDINGS-

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2 people so that it can be up and running for 2011,
3 I feel it's going to be nothing but fairness on
4 all parts.

5 we will consult with all the companies
6 again. We will try to answer all of the
7 questions, try to get rid of all the negativism
8 that's out there.

9 But I cannot personally say thank you enough
10 to everybody for their support and the gentlemen
11 to my left and right who have worked as
12 tirelessly as I have to see that this is done.

13 Thank you very much.

14 SUPERVISOR LEONARD: Gentlemen, I wish you
15 good luck.

16 I believe that we stand adjourned. Thank
17 you.

18 I HEREBY CERTIFY THE FOREGOING TO BE
19 A TRUE AND ACCURATE TRANSCRIPT OF
20 THE WITHIN PROCEEDINGS

21 _____
22 ROBERT J. CUMMINGS, JR., RPR
23 COURT REPORTER
24
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