

**MINUTES
TOWN OF SALEM
SPECIAL JOINT MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AND VILLAGE OF SILVER LAKE TRUSTEES
Monday, November 18, 2013**

Chairman Diann Tesar called this Special Joint Meeting of the Town of Salem Board of Supervisors and Village of Silver Lake Trustees to order at 7:00 p.m. with the following present: Town Supervisors Dennis Faber, Mike Culat, and Dan Campion. Administrator Casey and Clerk Ernest. Supervisor Kmiec was absent due to illness.

Present from the Village of Silver Lake were President Sue Gerber and Trustees Paul Snellen, Cindy Schwebke and Soti Wilbur. Trustee Pat Dunn and Michael Decker were absent.

Guests: Roger Johnson, Kevin Gerber, Chris Skrznecki, Linda Valentine, Darren Hillock, Karen Mahoney and Jill Rozell

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Tesar led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1.) Chairman Tesar began the discussion by questioning Silver Lake Trustees as to what they are interested in relative to joint municipal services.

Administrator Casey said that the Town was previously approached by Silver Lake regarding fire/rescue shared services with us helping Silver Lake and Silver Lake helping us. Silver Lake recently came to us requesting to re-open the discussion regarding shared fire/rescue services and we wrote the agenda in case there were other services they would be interested in sharing. The Salem Town Board is interested in talking about this as is Silver Lake. With expenses and costs going up, anything we can do to share services and costs will be a benefit to not only the Village and the Town, but also our residents. Taxpayers have to pay for it. It's wise to look at it and leaves it up to the boards to start that discussion.

President Gerber said that Ms Ironside came to Salem several times and it was not disclosed and didn't share any information with her. It came forward at one Silver Lake's meetings in the form of a motion to get together with Salem as we are tonight about shared services.

Trustee Cindy Schwebke said she wasn't approached with any information. As they were doing their budget and trying to balance and make it work, they decided to open talks with the Town about shared DPW, fire or just about anything. Open up communication.

Administrator Casey said that since fire/rescue has been discussed in the past, there may be other items that the boards wish to discuss. To start the discussions the boards should start with fire/rescue and see what feelings are there, and then discuss public works or sewer after. The question is are Silver Lake and Salem interested in opening up and looking at the fire/rescue and going on from there?

Chairman Tesar indicated the Town was open to discussion, but at the time, money was a big issue.

Supervisor Culat said at the time voted against it because he was in favor of a more regionalization of fire/rescue services. He is more than open to discussions.

Supervisor Faber said he is also open for discussions. The agreement or proposed agreement was not to our liking primarily due to the dollars involved. Paddock Lake pays us \$187,000 a

year for both fire and rescue and our citizens here spend quite a lot also. He is interested in not only fire/rescue, but also mentioned earlier that he is interested in considering utilities.

Further discussion followed relative to the dollar amounts charged to Paddock Lake and the figures which Supervisor Faber arrived at regarding charges to Silver Lake fire/rescue and Shorewood Terrace.

Discussion then went to the Town's comprehensive plan showing a new fire facility to the north near State Highway 50 and CTH B.

Supervisor Campion shared his thoughts by saying he is always looking out for the citizens, electors and the Town of Salem. If it makes financial sense by doing something with our services with other municipalities nearby, then he is willing to listen. But first and foremost it's got to make economic sense for the Town of Salem. He is willing to listen and wants to look at a large global view of all this.

Trustee Soti Wilbur indicated that when they first started looking at this in committee they looked at Shorewood Terrace, their facility and equipment to offset some of the costs. Discussion then went to what is the status of Silver Lakes' Fire Dept. and is it sustainable to which Trustee Cindy Schwebke responded that they chopped their budget. It took over three hours to cut \$29,000 from their fire department. There's no room to cut more.

Silver Lake's budget is \$90,000 for fire and rescue since they are under contract with them is \$2,250 a month and the contract ends in March 2014.

Further discussion went to the revenues for Salem's rescue and the \$260,000 actual revenue and we have an 80% collection rate.

Supervisor Culat suggested getting a more in depth look at Silver Lake's needs and doing an in depth analysis.

Administrator Casey indicated to both boards that a more in depth look would require the number of calls and types of calls, with three (3) years of data, for an analysis.

Trustee Soti Wilbur said that their rescue is private and they could ask them for the information, but there was no guarantee that they would give it to them.

Further discussion followed about their fire and rescue and an analysis of calls and charges.

Both boards would need the raw data in order to get an in depth analysis.

Discussion continued relative to calls and Silver Lakes' commitment to other municipalities for fire and its fire revenues and needed data.

Needed data would include the following:

Fire Calls and Rescue Calls including mutual aid calls

Number of Calls

Type of Calls

Revenues

Equipment

A look at Silver's Lakes' fire building

What is their current commitment to other municipalities and a breakdown on how often Silver Lake has assisted Salem. Would like to do an asset evaluation of what you Silver Lake has and doesn't have.

Discussion followed relative to whether Silver Lake wants Salem absorb them or take over. The analysis needs to be done first and the costs then Silver Lake needs to decide for themselves if their Board wishes to move forward.

Trustee Soti Wilbur indicated that they can't sustain for the coming years. Mutual agreement is the only way we can sustain.

Discussion went to ISO rating and Salem not wanting to tax or jeopardize their services. Chief Slover stated that the Village of Silver Lake has a pretty good ISO Rating. He went on to say that the analysis should be pretty easy to get from the fire rescue squad so that questions can be logically answered so there are no gray areas or what ifs. He stated that he has great support from the Town Board and the people in the community. Once Silver Lake is informed and they make a decision, not everyone is going to be happy; however Chief Slover believes there is buy in that can be made by making sure they are allowed to participate. It isn't going to be easy. The consolidation the Town of Salem went through was consensus driven and they had an opportunity to have their say. It took some time, but it worked out very well.

We need to make sure this is for the importance of the constituents, the people receiving the services and the members that provide the services. Keeping in mind that the ones providing the service need to be taken care of so they can provide that service. Lot of open and honest dialogue which may get heated at some point because they are protecting what they believe is theirs, but the bottom line is trying to provide the best service possible for the least amount of money to the constituents who live in the Village and the Town. Level of services comes at a cost and it's important that the boards know the costs.

Discussion went to Silver Lake's value and their levy.

Trustee Paul Snellen commented that we should start with fire/rescue and later look at other services in the future.

Tentative next meeting will be 6:00 pm on December 10, 2013 at the Village of Silver Lake.

A question was asked by Public Safety Officer Shortess relative to the term incorporate which was "thrown in the air". Is this something that was thrown out or has the Village actually looked at unincorporating?

Trustee Cindy Schwebke said that it was a question that a resident had asked at one of their meetings, the pros and cons of being unincorporated. It was something that had been at the back of her mind and in talking with neighbors, but it was just a thought. It is getting tough and through their budget meetings it was her thought.

Discussion followed and how the tax rates would go down by joining the two communities and the two boards maybe discussing other ideas in the future. Silver Lakes' levy is 5.53%.

Some members of the boards indicated interest in exploring this.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION BY Supervisor Culat, second by Supervisor Campion to adjourn this Special meeting.

UNANIMOUS VOTE – AYE

MOTION CARRIED

This Special Board meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindi Ernest, Clerk