**Mayville, NY** **Special Meeting May 1, 2024**

**Present:** Supervisor Donald Emhardt, Councilmen Scott Cummings, and Town Clerk, Rebecca Luba.

A Joint Meeting was held with the Town of Chautauqua, Village of Mayville, Hartfield Fire Commissioners and Dewittville Fire Commissioners to discuss the steps needed in order to create a new fire district and consolidate the 3 current fire departments in to one new joint fire district.

Meeting was called to order by Mayor Syper at 6:00 p.m. and turned over to Brad Pinsky representing Pinsky Law Group, PLLC.

Mr. Pinsky explained the process involved in consolidating the districts and provided detailed instructions for each department and governing body.

Resolutions to schedule a Joint Public Hearing considering the proposed formation of a joint fire district were distributed to each prospective board proposing the hearing be held on Tuesday, May 28, 2024 at 6pm in the Town of Chautauqua Gym located at 2 Academy Street, Mayville, NY.

Hartfield and Dewittville Commissioners each passed a resolution to continue forward with the consolidation, officially setting the proposed time and date for the joint public hearing.

The Town of Chautauqua will have to set an additional public hearing to dissolve the two(2) existing fire protection districts within the Town. A resolution was presented for consideration at their next regular meeting.

It was also stated that the Town of Chautauqua and Village Boards would need to appoint a minimum of 5 new Commissioners to serve over the new Fire District. There was discussion between those in attendance that 1 new commissioner from each fire district would be chosen as well as 2 more at a minimum. The ratio of commissioners would need to be one more commissioner from the Town of Chautauqua than the Village.

Mr. Pinsky answered the questions that were asked by those in attendance.

An inquiry was made asking about the benefits of a joint district. Mr. Pinsky responded stating it would create more opportunities for grant funding, cost savings in equipment, a larger volunteer base, lower insurance rates, and continuity in training procedures increasing safety and service throughout the community.

A question was asked inquiring about Mr. Pinsky’s fee to assist with the consolidation. Mr Pinskey stated his firm charges a flat fee of $40,000.00 for consolidation and an annual fee of $15,000 if the new district wish to retain them afterwards. There are grants currently available for the consolidation. Cory Leymeister and Noel Guttman volunteer to look into this and apply for any available grants.

Meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

A quorum was not met by the Town Board for a motion to close.

Village Trustee Webb made a motion to adjourn the Special Meeting at 7:10 PM, Seconded by Trustee Perry.

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Rebecca Luba, RMC

Town Clerk

Town of Chautauqua