

January 31, 2019

Town Board Special Meeting

Present: Supervisor Edward Bender, Councilman Alan Wood, Councilman Dan Wiley, Councilman Marty Mason, Councilman Paul Aubertine and approximately 11 residents.

Supervisor Bender opened the special meeting at 6pm with the pledge of allegiance.

Tim White gave the board members a hand out from the ambulance committee regarding the options for ambulance coverage that they have come up with.

Tim White reviewed the options from keeping the existing ambulance squad in place and doing nothing to having a paid EMS service. He also reviewed having coverage for just the prison, just residents and a combination of the two.

Tim also explained that the Department of Health is looking at the performance of the ambulance. He stressed that he feels the ambulance can't continue operating the way it has.

Supervisor Bender said that he and the committee have met with John Morrissey and they have told him they know that it is urgent that they get something in place. Tim agreed with this but feels that there should be routine meetings with TIERS and the Department of Health. He said that he would like to have a conference call with the Department of Health, Ron Jacobs and Supervisor Bender. He would like them to express to Mr. Morrissey that they understand the urgency and they want to move quickly with a fix.

The board discussed the CON. They talked about the possibility of the ambulance billing for service if they had a CON in place. They also discussed the town holding the CON and the town being responsible for the billing of service. Tim said if the town held the CON it would allow them to contract with other service providers.

Councilman Mason asked if the CON can be transferred, and Tim told him it could. He said it would have to be an independent CON. He also explained that an independent CON can't become a Municipality CON.

Councilman Wiley asked if they end up with a Municipal CON, does this mean TIERS can't bill and Tim said yes. Councilman Wiley said he felt that was the way to go

Councilman Mason said that the town CON is on hold, and Supervisor Bender said the town would reapply and this could take up to a year. They felt it was in the town's best interest to have the town hold their own CON. Supervisor Bender said that he also knows that if the town contracts with TIERS for service, Guilfoyle could protest because they have a CON, and this would hold up the process.

Tim White said that the Cape Vincent volunteer ambulance could transfer their CON to another provider, such as one in Lyme.

Councilman Mason said he feels the town needs a municipal CON and he would like to start the process. Councilman Wiley asked if they want to keep the existing one in place or have a municipal CON. He said that he does not want the town to be the employer.

Supervisor Bender said that TIERS will not sign the MOU for 2019. He said that he also feels that it would be a lot easier if the town held the CON. He said that the ambulance could transfer it's CON to TIERS.

Councilman Aubertine said that he knows that there are steps and a timeline in removing the CV Volunteer Ambulance as it is today. He said that he would like to appoint a new ambulance board. The board discussed the fact that there is only one member, Ron Jacobs, on the ambulance board now. Councilman Aubertine asked if there was any opposition to have Ron step down, and have the entire board replaced; and if it happened, does it stop the CON from being transferred. Tim White said he did not know the answer to that, it should be asked of the Department of Health.

Councilman Mason asked if the CON can be given back to the fire department. Tim said that it couldn't and Dave McIntyre said that it could be.

Bill Martin said that the Department of Health could answer a lot of questions. He also discussed who can bill for service. Bill said that the ambulance squad by laws state there has to be no less than 5 board members.

Councilman Wiley said that the committee has done a lot of work in a short time frame, and asked what they thought the best course of action would be.

Bill Martin said that he feels there must be an ambulance service in Cape Vincent; if not it would be a loss. He said there is a viable ambulance service in Clayton (TIERS), but will they be here?

Councilman Wiley said that the town board was led down the wrong path in the past and he said he is tired of discussing this. He said the board needs to see it though and fix it.

Dave McIntyre said that if the CON has been transferred, if it is not in Cape Vincent, they won't be able to get it back. He said the first responders program is up and running and they have responded to 17 calls in 19 days. Dave said that he feels the CON should not be relinquished or they lose control of it because they will never get it back.

Bob Ewing said that the town needs a viable ambulance, and he would like to keep one in Cape Vincent. He said he would like to see a new ambulance squad board of directors. He said that he has had residents tell him that they would like to donate money to fix up the current ambulance. Bob also said that he has heard a lot of feedback, and people are encouraged by the first responder program. Supervisor Bender said he knows the current ambulance is not up to par and he feels that they would be better off purchasing a new one.

Councilman Aubertine asked Dave McIntyre if the transfer of the CON from the Cape Vincent ambulance to TIERS has already started. Tim White said that in all probability, the Department of Health will pull the CON from the CV ambulance squad. Councilman Aubertine said that he would like Ron Jacobs to be told that the town wants to have them maintain the CON. Councilman Aubertine also asked if the Department of Health knew that the town resolves to replace the current board and hire EMT's and set

the date of March 15 to have this done. By doing this it helps to show the town is moving and taking action. Tim said that he did not know. Questions need to be asked of them and this is part of the reason he wishes to have a conference call with them.

Councilman Wood said he would like the committee to be the ambulance squad board.

Bill Kirchgessner said that the old members of the squad must resign first. Bill Martin said that the squad has ceased to operate. He said that he feels Ron Jacobs is a little shell shocked from all of this.

The board discussed TIERS and billing for service. They also discussed pay scale for hiring EMT's. Dave McIntyre said that he knows EMT's that will sit for minimum wage. Supervisor Bender asked Dave if he would advertise for EMT's and he said he would.

Councilman Wiley asked if they have to be on premises or could they just be nearby. Bill said that he will look into the answer. Councilman Wiley said that he feels Supervisor Bender, Tim White, Ron Jacobs and the Department of Health should meet and discuss the many questions. Councilman Aubertine agreed, and also stated that he would like to have some resolution to action. He said he too feels the CON needs to stay in the hands of the Cape Vincent volunteer ambulance squad. He said that this would prove to the Department of Health that the town is moving on this matter.

The board discussed hiring EMT's and Tim White asked how many and how many hours per year would be needed. He said that he would like to plan for both, Guilfoyle and Cape Vincent, to respond.

Dave McIntyre asked why John Morrissey was at a meeting with TIERS to discuss Cape Vincent. He asked why Mr. Morrissey did not come to the Cape to discuss this. He said it feels like the Cape is being strong armed and he does not like it.

Councilman Aubertine again asked what the steps are to replace everyone on the current ambulance squad board. He said that he knows they can't replace Dr. Gray, but he asked who can run. Bill Martin said that they have to apply to serve on the board with an application.

Supervisor Bender asked Tim White if he feels that the ambulance should keep the CON and if the town should fill the vacant positions on the ambulance board. Tim said that the Department of Health will take action unless they see a robust plan, and he said that filling the board will not be the robust plan. Supervisor Bender said that the town needs to get a plan together and Councilman Wiley added that they need to sit down with Mr. Morrissey. Supervisor Bender said that it is clear that everyone wants to maintain the ambulance service in Cape Vincent. He will call Mr. Morrissey.

Councilman Aubertine said that a letter to the ambulance squad, on town letterhead, stating the town respectfully nominates the following new board members will show that the town is taking action. He said he feels this letter needs to be copied to the Department of Health.

Joe Wood said that he feels Dr. Gray should be involved with the meeting with Mr. Morrissey. Tim White said that the Department of Health needs to see action. He said that sending an EMT and a driver to the fire hall and calling in that they are ready to respond will demonstrate action.

Councilman Wiley said that utilizing town and village employees as drivers is a good idea. Councilman Aubertine said that he liked the idea too. Supervisor Bender said they would have to find out who would like to do this.

Councilman Aubertine said that he thinks it is a good idea if the town sends a letter to the Department of Health stating that on January 31, 2019 the town board made a motion to recommend people to fill the vacancies on the ambulance squad board.

Tim White again stated that he feels that if there was someone in the fire hall that would call in that they are ready to respond would show that they are taking action.

Councilman Aubertine said that the town has budgeted money for the service.

Dave McIntyre suggested that the town contact with a company to do billing for service. He said that he realizes that some people want to stay with TIERS. Joe Wood said that the town will need TIERS for some help.

Dave McIntyre said that no one from TIERS is out to hurt anything in the town. He said they are there to help us.

It was decided that a conference call will be made on Friday, Feb. 1 and Ron Jacobs will be asked to be a part of it.

Councilman Aubertine made a motion to have the Supervisor send a letter to the Cape Vincent Volunteer Ambulance Squad to respectfully nominate Tim White, William Martin, Joe Wood and Dave McIntyre to fill the vacancies on the board, seconded by Councilman Mason. All members voted AYE.

Bob Ewing said that the village will send a letter supporting the nominations.

Councilman Wiley thanked the committee for their time and the work done.

#### Resolutions

Resolution #22 was moved by Councilman Mason, seconded by Councilman Wood. Resolution #22 is acknowledgment that Hon. Colleen Knuth's records as presented, were audited and found to be in order.

There was no discussion. All members voted AYE.

#### Resolution #23

Resolution #23 was moved by Councilman Wiley, seconded by Councilman Wood. Resolution #23 is to authorize the Supervisor to transfer \$36,095.36 from the Capitol Reserve Fund to DA5130.2 for the purchase of the 2019 Ford Super Duty pick up from Caskinette's Lofink Motor Co.

There was no discussion. All members voted AYE.

Councilman Wood made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:50pm.