

**Village of Cold Spring
Village Board of Trustees
85 Main Street, Cold Spring, New York 10516**

**Trustees Meeting
1-22-19**

The Village of Cold Spring Board of Trustees held a meeting at the Cold Spring Village Hall, 85 Main Street on Tuesday January 22, 2019 at 7 pm. Present were: Mayor David Merandy and Trustees Marie Early, Lynn Miller, Frances Murphy and Steve Voloto.

DISCUSSION WITH COLD SPRING FIRE COMPANY #1 ON BECOMING A FIRE DISTRICT

Fire Company President Matt Steltz informed the Board that the Company has been discussing the pros and cons of becoming a fire district. During the discussion it was noted that:

- The CSFC wishes the Board to be aware of what may occur in the future and what options are available
- The CSFC hasn't voted on the idea, but members are concerned about continued financial viability
- The only negative to becoming a fire district is that it would have a tax impact upon residents (including members of the CSFC)
- CSFC's lawyer is of the opinion that becoming a fire district is financially viable
- A new fire house is not the reason behind consideration of becoming a fire district
- Village Board would like to know the anticipated costs before considering this option
- CSFC identified current necessary capital improvements including:
 - New carbon dioxide exhaust system (\$40-\$50K estimated cost)
 - Renovation of bathrooms
 - Renovation of kitchen
 - ADA accessibility
- A fire district would spread these costs over the entire district, rather than just the Village.
- Downside of a fire district is that the CSFC would be subject to oversight from its Commissioners
- Village Board would like a list of all capital and repair costs so the CSFC budget may be increased to include those costs. Board asks the CSFC to submit this ahead of this year's budget preparation (scheduled to begin in February.)
- Village Board asked what the coverage area would be. CSFC responded that it would include the Town of Philipstown, Cold Spring and Nelsonville
- Village Board asked what the tax consequences would be for residents. CSFC responded that taxes would rise significantly to cover: code compliance issues, new apparatus, rent, hiring of secretary/treasurer and annual audits
- Village Board stated that costs for the fire company are imbedded in its budget and the Philipstown and Nelsonville have dedicated taxes. How would changing to a fire district impact each municipality? CSFC responded that, based upon their research, residential taxes for fire

protection services might double. No. Highlands' fire tax is believed to be @2.50/\$1,000, but they are paying a mortgage on the new firehouse.

- Village Board requested the CSFC "do the legwork" to prepare a plan and budget for review
- Village Board needs to understand all the costs and tax implications to make an informed decision and to inform village residents. To this end the cost of a new firehouse should be included in the CSFC budget.
- CSFC noted that a new firehouse would have to be located within the fire district
- Village Board asked what makes the current financial model unsustainable. CSFC responded that mandated expenditure for new apparatus have come from their reserve fund, but that fund is not inexhaustible
- CSFC noted that the advantage to firemen in a district is that they won't have to "deal with the Village" because the commissioners would address all fire district issues
- Fire commissioners initially selected by Philipstown and thereafter by election by residents of the fire district.
- Initial fire district budget would be set by Philipstown and is not subject to NYS tax cap. An anticipated \$1 million for purchase of necessary equipment over the next 10 years would be included in the initial budget. Subsequent budgets would be subject to the 2% tax cap.
- Village Board asked how necessary costs (for apparatus and other unforeseen events) would be handled if they cause a budget increase in excess of the 2% tax cap. CSFC responded that a referendum would be held to approve or disapprove those costs
- CSFC noted that the actual residential tax increase for a fire district is unknown. LOSAP would roll into the fire district and all liability would fall to the fire district.
- Village Board asked what would happen if, for example, Nelsonville declined to become part of the fire district? CSFC responded that costs to municipalities in the district would increase.
- Village Board would like information about conversion to a fire district, along with costs for consideration in the upcoming budget process (rather than just rolling over the previous year's budget)
- Village Board asked if CSFC is sustainable as far as personnel are concerned over the long term. CSFC responded that it will be "okay" but there is no guarantee and this will impact the decision about whether to become a fire district. CSFC is active in recruiting and retaining personnel.
- CSFC noted that while operational costs remain relatively flat, capital costs vary from year to year. VBOT requested that it be notified so that those costs can be accounted for in the budget
- Village Board suggested the CSFC "sing its own praises" to encourage new volunteers. CSFC responded that many potential volunteers "walk away when informed of the requirements"
- The next step will be for the CSFC to decide what they want to do.

AUTHORIZE MAYOR TO SIGN 2019 MOU WITH CSFC

Trustee Murphy made a motion to authorize the Mayor to sign the MOU with the CSFC. Trustee Miller seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION WITH HUDSON HIGHLANDS LAND TRUST REGARDING PROTECTING WATER SUPPLY

HHLT President Michelle Smith distributed the grant application for a NYS program to provide

consultants to assist small municipalities in their water supply protection efforts. During the discussion of the application it was noted that the Village should:

- Highlight unique features in its application
- Note the above ground water sources
- Note that some residents have improper septic systems
- Discuss the future of the water supply in relation to future Village growth
- Discuss the need to protect the water supply for future generations
- Note that beavers often block water flow
- Identify the additional needs should Nelsonville decides to tap into the Village water and sewer systems
- Note issues with herbicides used adjacent to water supplies and salt applied to roads during the winter
- Note residential lawn maintenance runoff
- Note that the Village watershed includes adjacent municipalities

Ms. Smith noted that the application is due 2-9-19 and has to be signed by a village official (a board member or Greg Phillips).

CORRESPONDENCE

The Village received an email from NYCOM Executive Director Peter A. Baynes regarding the State's intention to eliminate AIM funding for 480 villages. Board members noted that it receives approximately \$16,500/year in AIM funding.

The Village received an email from Mark Patinella of the CS Boat Club requesting a resumption of lease talks. The Board will schedule a meeting.

The Village received an email from Gordon and Suzanne Robertson commending the work of highway department during the recent snowfall.

MINUTES

Mayor Merandy made a motion to adopt the minutes of the 1-8-19 board meeting as amended. Trustee Early seconded and the motion passed 5-0-0.

APPROVAL OF BILLS

Trustee Miller made a motion to approve Batch #4945 in the amount of \$94,531.93. Mayor Merandy seconded and the motion passed 5-0-0.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Merandy made a motion to adjourn. Trustee Voloto seconded and the motion passed 5-0-0 at 9:30 pm.

Submitted by: M. Mell

Mayor David Merandy

Date