

SPECIAL MEETING
JANUARY 21, 2014

A Special Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Somerset, County of Niagara and the State of New York was held at the Town Hall, 8700 Haight Road, Barker, New York on the 21st day of January 2014.

Present:	Daniel M. Engert -----	Supervisor
	Randall J. Wayner -----	Councilman
	Gary R. Alt -----	Councilman
	Robin R. Jansen -----	Councilman
	Jeffrey M. Dewart -----	Councilman
	Tracy L. Carmer -----	Clerk

Attended by: 1 resident and a reporter

Notice of said meeting was sent to the Lockport Union-Sun & Journal on January 17, 2014 with same notice being posted on the same date at the Town Hall and on the website.

Supervisor Engert called the meeting to order at 6:00PM with the pledge to the flag and a prayer for guidance.

RESOLUTION 34-2014

AUTHORIZE ACH/CREDIT CARD PAYMENTS

Supervisor Engert stated that we are going to enter into an agreement with Key Bank to be a repository for water/sewer payments as well as opening an opportunity for residents to enroll to have their water/sewer payments automatically debited from their checking account through an ACH transaction. He stated that this is a convenience for the residents, and we are the first Town in Niagara County to offer this service. Approximately 80 residents have signed up for this service already. Supervisor Engert will be talking to Attorney Norris about security procedures.

On a motion of Supervisor Engert, seconded by Councilman Jansen, the following resolution was

ADOPTED Ayes 5 Engert, Wayner, Alt, Jansen, Dewart
 Nays 0

WHEREAS, the Town Board recognizes the overall convenience for taxpayers to use ACH debit as a means for paying water and sewer bills and recognizes the cost benefit to Town government which assists in consolidating and reducing government, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, this governing body determines that it is in the public interest of the Town of Somerset and authorizes the use of ACH debits as a means of payment to collect the payment of water and sewer fees owed to the Town of Somerset; and be it further

RESOLVED, this governing body designates the Town Clerk with the duties of collecting water and sewer fees; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this governing body hereby authorizes the Town Clerk of the Town of Somerset to accept authorization forms from taxpayers accepting this ACH debit method of payment and require that this method of payment may be terminated by the taxpayer at any time upon written notice; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this governing body does hereby authorize the Town Clerk to enter into an agreement with Key Bank (Barker branch) to collect said water and sewer bill payments when presented by taxpayers.

RESOLUTION 35-2014

HEALTHCARE CONTRIBUTION FOR NON-UNION EMPLOYEES

Supervisor Engert proposes that we change the first sentence of the premium payment in section 806 of the hand book to read "the Town will pay 93% of the monthly premium

TOWN BOARD MEETING
JANUARY 21, 2014 PAGE 2

payment for a family or individual coverage, whichever the case may be for every full-time employee." He stated that this will bring the non-union employees up to the level of the union employees.

On a motion of Councilman Alt, seconded by Councilman Wayner, the following resolution was

ADOPTED Ayes 5 Engert, Wayner, Alt, Jansen, Dewart
Nays 0

Resolved the Employee Handbook be changed to reflect the change in monthly contributions of the Town from 95% to 93%.

RESOLUTION 36-2014

EXTENSION OF SOMERSET FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

Supervisor Engert stated that extending the Fire Protection District would align costs better among all residents and would be a win-win for all three entities. It takes the liability and responsibility off of the village and establishes the Fire Department as its own independent entity. Supervisor Engert stated that this provides them the ability to bring in more revenue sources, and provides them the ability to have more autonomy in the decisions they make for what's best for the Fire Department. Supervisor Engert advised that this is a contractual relationship and brings our two municipalities together so we are sharing a service and benefitting from that service equally.

On a motion of Councilman Dewart, seconded by Councilman Jansen, the following resolution was

ADOPTED By roll call: Engert Aye
Wayner Aye
Alt Aye
Jansen Aye
Dewart Aye

Whereas, the Town of Somerset desires to promote initiatives that serve to provide more efficient and cost effective public services in the Town; and

Whereas, the Town of Somerset truly values and endeavors to fully support initiatives that are in the best interests of the Barker Fire Department, Inc.; and

Whereas, the Town of Somerset in the interest of partnership, cooperation and consolidation of government resources with and between the Town and Village of Barker to equally and fairly benefit constituents of both municipalities, the town desires to extend the Somerset Fire Protection District into the Village of Barker; and

Whereas, the Town of Somerset requires specific legislation authorizing The Town of Somerset to extend the Somerset Fire Protection District into the village of Barker;

Whereas, introduction of such legislation is requested in the 2014 session;

NOW THEREFORE:

The Town Board of the Town of Somerset hereby resolves to request the New York State Assembly and Senate to introduce and pass legislation in the 2014 session which shall permit the Town of Somerset to extend the Somerset Fire Protection District into the Village of Barker, and to place the Barker Fire Department, Inc. under the sole control of the Town of Somerset for all purposes under the law.

PROCEEDING WITH EXTENDING FIRE DISTRICT

Supervisor Engert noted that the next step is to have the resolution notarized and stamped with our seal. Attorney Brad Pinsky prepared a letter to accompany the resolution to be sent to Assemblywoman Jane Corwin and Senator George Maziarz. Along with this is text for the law that will get passed along to committee. After the committee considers it, the Fire Department will be solicited for a letter of support.

TOWN BOARD MEETING
JANUARY 21,2014 PAGE 3

Once it gets acted upon, it will be required to be signed by the Governor as early as May. After it is official, the Town can then adopt the law. Discussion ensued regarding the positive meeting with the Barker Fire Department executive board. Supervisor Engert stated that the Town has no intent to take over the village, just to share public safety.

On a motion of Councilman Wayner, seconded by Councilman Alt, the meeting adjourned at 6:27 P.M. subject to the Call of the Clerk. Carried unanimously.

Tracy L. Carmer, RMC
Town Clerk