

SPECIAL MEETING  
OCTOBER 24, 2011

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 24<sup>th</sup> day of October 2011.

Present:	Richard J. Meyers -----	Supervisor
	Randall J. Wayner -----	Councilman
	Daniel M. Engert -----	Councilman
	Gary R. Alt -----	Councilman
	Robin R. Jansen -----	Councilman
	Melinda Austin -----	Confidential Secretary

Attended by: Justice Donald Martineck; Mayor Herbert Meyer, Village of Barker Board Members –Patricia Fuller, Robert Longstreet and Aaron Nellist, and Chief Ross Annable

Notice of said meeting was sent to the Lockport Union-Sun & Journal on October 20, 2011 with same notice being posted on the same date at the Town Hall.

Supervisor Meyers called the meeting to order at 6:00PM with the Pledge to the Flag.

**2012 BUDGET**

**Police Services**

Supervisor Meyers stated that he had conferred with the school and department heads that would be involved to obtain information from them as to what the costs would be to the Town if the Police Dept. moved to the Town Hall. He asked Councilman Engert to explain his investigation into the matter of providing police services to town residents.

Councilman Engert stated he was charged with getting some alternative pricing scenarios from the letter that was sent by the Village of Barker on August 22, 2011 where they identified a need of \$65,000 from the Town's 2012 budget year. He said he obtained pricing from the Niagara County Sheriff's Dept. to have additional coverage for the Town and that cost would be upwards of \$82,000 and that would amount on an average of 36 hours a week. He said he met with members of the Board to determine what the next step should be and it was to meet with the Chief to see if he could be comparable and to look over the budget closer. He met with Chief Ross Annable to discuss the police department budget and stated adjustments were made to the police budget for coverage of the town. He stated that he and Councilman Wayner met with Village representatives to discuss the options and requested that an advisory committee be formed with representatives of the town being on the committee for input on budgetary items and other operational issues that may come up. Councilman Engert said that for the Town's budgetary purposes, taking into consideration the reduced hours, reduced miles that will be driven and reduced costs in employee benefits, he believes it would be acceptable to the Town Board to budget \$45,709 for 2012, which represents 58% of the police budget.

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Supervisor Meyers asked if this will be a contractual situation instead of shared services.

Councilman Engert stated that the Village will remain in control.

Extensive discussion ensued regarding contractual agreement, advisory committee, Village control of the police with the Town paying the larger share and the Town not having any say, making police services equal for the Village and Town residents by being based on assessed value, dissolving the village police department, what level of police service can be afforded, evaluation of the services for the year with an advisory board, what is being transitioned into, realignment of hours, long term goal, mandated costs, payment options, purchase of a police car, and the possibility of moving the police department to the Town Hall.

Judge Martineck stated he was not in favor of moving the police department next to his chambers as there could be direct access to his chambers, the room is small, the prisoners would be going past the new copier to enter the proposed office, and there are no direct phone lines. He also expressed the need for a dedicated court officer.

Supervisor Meyers stated associated costs of moving the police department to the town hall needs to be budgeted for.

Extensive discussion ensued regarding moving the police office to the Town Hall and associated costs to do so.

It was the consensus of the Board to budget \$46,000 for 2012 for police services.

RESOLUTION 125-2011

**ADOPTION OF PRELIMINARY 2012 BUDGET**

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

ADOPTED Ayes 5 Meyers, Wayner, Engert, Alt, Jansen

Resolved the 2011 Preliminary Budget is adopted.

There being no further business, on the motion of Councilman Wayner, seconded by Councilman Jansen, the meeting adjourned at 7:00 PM subject to the Call of the Clerk.

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Rebecca A. Connolly, MMC  
Town Clerk