*Draft- not yet approved* **SPECIAL TOWN BOARD MEETING**

**2024 FIRE-EMS BUDGET**

Town of Ulysses

Sept. 14, 2023

*The meeting was held in person at the Trumansburg Fire Hall as well as via Zoom videoconference. Notice of Town Board meetings are posted on the Town’s website and Clerk’s board.*

*A video recording of the meeting is available on Youtube at*

[*https://www.youtube.com/@trumansburgareameetings3194*](https://www.youtube.com/@trumansburgareameetings3194)

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Ms. Olson called the meeting to order at 7:07pm.

**ATTENDANCE:**

TOWN OFFICIALS

Supervisor- Katelin Olson

Board members- Mary Bouchard, Liz Weatherby, Rich Goldman

Town Clerk- Carissa Parlato

Second Deputy Supervisor/Budget Officer- Michelle E. Wright

OTHERS:

Members of the Towns of Covert & Mecklenburg; and the Village of Trumansburg board.

**FIRE BUDGET DISCUSSION:**

Mr. Hart gave a brief presentation of the Village’s 2024-2025 Fire budget.

Highlights:

* Mini pumper is paid off
* Overall budget has not gone down significantly due to putting more money into reserves for another new vehicle (14% increase) + funds to outfit a fire truck (300% increase)
* Description of capital plan/costs/purchase schedule
* Discussion of leftover funds at the end of each year (due to underbudgeting?)- questions as to if there is another way to deal with rather than it going into Village’s fund balance. Mr. Hart said that there have been times when there are overages that the Village makes up from fund balance so he feels it is warranted
* Discussion of difference between fire dept (owned by Village/taxpayers) and fire company (private entity)

Mr. Hart noted that $3.5 million is included in the house budget (but unknown in the senate) to go toward a new fire house.

New way of assessing costs to municipalities:

Includes:

* Assessed value
* Fixed costs 75%
* Call volume 25%
* Since this formula will increase the cost to Ulysses, the Village is suggesting a 5-yr phased in approach

EMS BUDGET:

Mr. Carver noted that Mr. Fey has been auditing EMS billing to make sure that costs are recouped. In past years they have discussed hiring a clerk to do billing in-house but this year have opted to continue with 3rd party billing.

Mr. Hart noted that staffing is always an unknown due to geographical EMS needs that the Village tries to meet.

Mr. Carver:

* New cost for SCUBA equipment in reserves
* New equipment to replace outdated
* With new vehicle, can now respond to difficult lake properties
* Health insurance opt-out plan: $500 pd to anyone who wants to use other ins

Mutual aid discussion:

* Legal agreements to supply back up services as needed
* Concern from Ms. Olson on increased #s to do this and not get reimbursed
* Mr. Fey- has looked into this and thinks his efforts will result in decreased events next year

Mr. Fey- the dept uses its downtime to give back to the community (events, programs, prevention…)

ADJOURN

Mr. Goldman made a motion to adjourn at 8:32pm. This was seconded by Ms. Bouchard and passed unanimously.

*Respectfully submitted by Carissa Parlato, Town Clerk*

*9/26/23*