

Town Board Meeting April 26, 2010

4:00 p.m.

**Present:** Supervisor Reiter (4:25), Deputy Supervisor Catlin; Councilman Bax (4:15), Marra, Winkley and Clerk Donna Garfinkel

Deputy Supervisor Catlin opened meeting.

**Winkley MOVED to enter into Executive Session to discuss personnel, Seconded by Marra and Carried 3 – 0.** (4:03 p.m.)

**Marra MOVED to exit Executive Session, Seconded by Bax and Carried 4 – 0.** (5:05 p.m.)

Meeting with Fire Chiefs. (5:10 p.m.)

**Present:** Supervisor Reiter; Councilmen Bax, Marra and Winkley. Fire Chief Macaulay - Lewiston #1; Chief Printup – Lewiston #2; Chief Schultz – Upper Mt., Chief Hoover – Sanborn, several firemen, Sgt. Previte, 1 press and Clerk Donna Garfinkel

Chief Macaulay said the training building has been discussed for about 7– 8-years, within the confines of the four fire companies in the Town.

Firemen currently train in Lockport and Wheatfield. Both places have problems in regards to their location. When a fire department goes to train, at either site, it takes the fire department out of its area and out of service. The company then has to set-up mutual aid, so as to be covered. This being the case, it denies the Chief the right to have a multi-departmental drill.

The entire County utilizes Lockport and Wheatfield. To have availability on a daily or weekly basis is virtually impossible. Fire companies are unable to schedule the amount of live-burning necessary. On going training is needed for new members and established members. Hands-on training and experience of actually fighting a fire is very important.

Macaulay said companies were sought for proposals and design of a center. Two companies were chosen to make a presentation. After their presentations, the fire companies choose WHP Training Towers.

Macaulay distributed a comparison survey from WHP Training Towers. A disk with their power-point presentation, and plans placed on poster board are also available.

Based on presentation and visual inspection, of both companies, the Chiefs of Lewiston #1, Lewiston #2, Sanborn and Upper Mountain Fire Companies state that WHP Training Towers provides the Town of Lewiston the best training facility available for the continued and future training of their fire-fighters.

The building will have the capability to burn as a one or two story home, and a 6-story tower. This replicates a high-rise, such as the dorms at Niagara University, Niagara County Community College, Mount St. Mary's Hospital and etc... There are repelling points designed in the building to help simulate a gorge rescue.

Chief Schultz said this design allows for the life-burns to be different. Now, after one or two life-burns the men know what the design is.

If the Board decided to, this could be open to other entities.

The building is fairly maintenance free. Once the building is installed, fuel used needs to be replaced, and clean-up after each live-burn.

A total cost estimate of the training center from WHP Training Towers is \$996,851. Macaulay said the price could be reduced, depending on any local workers being hired. Reiter suggested utilizing local residents/unions.

Town grant writer Mr. Rotella has been informed of the project and is looking into possible grants.

It was questioned as to how much use the facility will get? Macaulay said it could be opened 5-nights a week. Companies would utilize it, because it provides a necessary facility.

The proposed property is town owned located behind the Highway Garage. It was questioned how this may affect neighboring residents. Macaulay said the Board could set rules, which need to be followed, and address any concerns. Reiter suggested the Chiefs discuss the center and work with the residents. Reiter suggested working with Attorney Dowd on a waiver of liability.

Reiter thanked all for coming.

Previte said the proposed fire training center does not have a law enforcement environment. Previte presented a drawing for a training center, for Lewiston only, within the rifle range. There was an idea to construct a shoot-house. After looking into this, it was unclear if it would get the use that is needed by the department.

At this time the department does not have a protective environment from the elements to train. The proposal shows a 36' x 50', two-floor building. The first floor would be used for storage, and a 30' x 36' simulations room, with removable walls. The second floor is a classroom.

The Town should have an Emergency Operation Center (EOC). Once the Town has one EOC, a secondary needs to be designated. The second floor could meet either one of those needs. This would open the door for numerous federal grants. Grants can be used for upgrading existing facilities or for building one. It was suggested Previte speak to Mr. Rotella, Town Grant Writer.

This building could be placed on the Harold Road side. The outside front could be constructive of some type of sound absorbent material. This may help with the noise from the range.

Previte wants to secure the building with a fence. Water and sewer need to be connected.

Previte did not go out to bid, but believes this could cost approximately \$300,000 - \$350,000. This also could be constructed by local residents/unions.

**Winkley MOVED to close the meeting, Seconded by Marra and Carried 4 – 0. (5:55 p.m.)**

Respectfully Submitted and Transcribed by:

Donna Garfinkel  
Deputy Town Clerk