

Village of Camillus
Special Meeting
December 20, 2014

Present: Mayor Patricia J. Butler
Trustee Ann Eckert
Trustee Helen Kiggins Walsh
Trustee Martin Rinaldo
Trustee Susan Hines

Attorney: Robert J. Allan

3 people in attendance

Mayor Butler called a special meeting to order at 12:00 noon.

**VILLAGE OF CAMILLUS
NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Camillus has been scheduled for Saturday, December 20, 2014 at 12:00 p.m. Noon. The meeting will be held at the Morris A. Raichlin Village Hall, 37 Main Street, Camillus, New York.

December 17, 2014

By Order of
Patricia J. Butler, Mayor
VILLAGE OF CAMILLUS

Mayor Butler stated the Board will have to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel matters.

Chief Fred Isgar from Howlett Hill Fire Department asked to be able to introduce himself before the Executive Session. Chief Isgar stated he attended this meeting in order to be included in the discussion of the position of Camillus Fire Department's 1st Assistant Chief being filled by Douglas Groesbeck.

Camillus Fire Department and Howlett Hill Fire Departments run many calls together as well as train together. Chief Isgar and Chief Groesbeck have worked together and have now built an agreement that allows a 24/7 coverage situation for the districts of Camillus and Howlett Hill despite the fire service continually struggling to recruit volunteers. This situation is a huge benefit to the towns of Camillus and Onondaga.

Chiefs Isgar, Groesbeck and McBride meet almost weekly in order to continually review this agreement. The two fire departments mesh very well. The two departments consult each other in support of purchases, apparatus, training and other decisions. This agreement is seen nowhere else in this county. Chief Isgar stated Chief Groesbeck has helped his own fire department more than what can be explained. He is, in his opinion, the most dedicated fire chief he has met. He has devoted much of his family time to the service of the fire department instead. He has worked hard throughout his time despite struggles. The fire department has grown to a much higher level with the direction of Chief Groesbeck.

Chief Isgar stated having Chief Groesbeck as the 1st Assistant Chief under Chief James McBride will be a benefit for the Village of Camillus, Town of Camillus, Town of Onondaga, Town of Elbridge, and any other mutual aid district Camillus Fire Department responds to. Chief Isgar wishes to take this time to speak on his behalf as well as on behalf of Howlett Hill Fire Department in support of Chief Groesbeck filling the position of 1st Assistant Chief. Chief Isgar stated his position as a communications consultant for the third largest pharmaceutical company in the world is a piece of cake compared to being a Fire Chief. Chief Isgar looks forward to working with Chief Groesbeck in the future and thanked the Board for giving him the time to speak for the support of Chief Groesbeck. It would be a large disappointment to lose Douglas Groesbeck as an officer.

Mayor Butler thanked Chief Isgar for his time.

Mayor Butler stated the floor is open for any other discussion.

Attorney MaryAnn Cody, 3 Genesee Street addressed the Board to encourage all to take the First Assistant Chief vote very seriously, to keep an open mind and to rise above any personal conflicts that may exist between the Board and the persons being voted on. Mrs. Cody advised her husband is Camillus Fire Department volunteer firefighter and Douglas Groesbeck is a good friend of her as well. She stated she has the most respect for him as a non-official volunteer for the fire department during events.

Despite having financial struggles (Attorney Cody is also a CPA who volunteered to assist the department) the fire department is now on the right track under Treasurer Rinaldo and President Hutchins. Her services are now needed less as the fire department is in a much stronger financial position.

Mrs. Cody stated not many residents are aware that this vote was taking place today. She feels very strongly that Chief Groesbeck has a very strong following of support within the Village. She personally knows of numerous residents that have been helped by him during emergencies. She hopes his past service is being considered by the Board during this vote. Mrs. Cody thanked the Board for her chance to speak.

Mayor Butler thanked Mrs. Cody for her time.

Chief James McBride addressed the Board on behalf of Camillus Fire Department. He stated the department members voted on their officers and they expect the backing of the Village Board.

Mayor Butler thanked Chief McBride for his time.

The meeting moved into Executive Session at 12:11 pm.

The Board exited Executive Session at 12:30 pm.

Upon the motion of Mayor Butler and second by Trustee Rinaldo, the Board approved Douglas Groesbeck as First Assistant Chief. The voting was as follows:

The foregoing resolution was put to a vote which resulted as follows:

Patricia Butler	Mayor	Voted - Yes
Ann Eckert	Trustee	Voted - No
Helen Kiggins Walsh	Trustee	Voted - Yes
Martin Rinaldo	Trustee	Voted - Yes
Susan Hines	Trustee	Voted - Yes

The motion was duly adopted.

Attorney Allan asked the Board if there are any other topics to discuss before adjourning.

President Hutchins asked if the Board approved the by-law change for the Camillus Fire Department. The fire department members agreed to the by-law change with 1 no vote, 1 abstained vote and a majority of yes votes. This change allows a by-law change proposal be brought to the membership during a business meeting and then voted on at the next meeting, rather than waiting three months for the final vote.

Upon the motion of Trustee Hines and second by Trustee Walsh and unanimously approved, the Board agreed to approve the previous Camillus Fire Department By-Law change.

Mayor Butler advised President Hutchins and Chief McBride the Board requests Camillus Fire Department to have a representative at the Board meetings. This will reduce micromanagement of the Fire Department by the Board and will help dispel rumors, offer discussion if questions arise. This will allow the Board to show their support of the Fire Department.

Mayor Butler advised that Allen Harmon was not approved as Captain. Chief McBride stated he would like to address that. Chief McBride stated that if the Board has an issue with Mr. Harmon not having a license it is a non-issue. The role of Captain does not include driving an apparatus. He is not driving any apparatus until he does have a license. Mayor Butler asked if Mr. Harmon was an interior firefighter. Chief McBride stated he is interior.

Mayor Butler asked the Board if they had any questions.

Trustee Hines asked Chief McBride if the fire department can bring a report to the Board Meetings. This report can offer training, emergency calls and positive information of what the department has done within the last month in order to keep the partnership of the Board and the fire department moving in a positive direction. Chief McBride stated that would be no problem.

Mayor Butler advised the Board they were discussing Allen Harmon. Attorney Allen suggested the Board go into Executive Session to discuss it further. Mayor Butler stated if the vote is dependent on having a driver's license or not, the Board is advised it is not a requirement to have a license in order to be a member of the fire department. Chief McBride agreed by stating a driver's license is only necessary if the member is driving an apparatus.

Mayor Butler stated Chief Groesbeck has addressed the issue with Mr. Harmon and he has already served his suspension. Chief McBride stated he is still a great benefit to the fire department. He has just recently offered his time off to help set up duty crews.

Mayor Butler asked the Board if they would like to go into Executive Session. Upon the motion by Trustee Eckert and second by Trustee Hines, the Board agreed to go into Executive Session at 12:41 p.m.

The meeting moved out of Executive Session at 1:04 p.m.

Upon the motion of Mayor Butler and second by Trustee Rinaldo, the Board approved Greg Zacholl as 2nd Lieutenant Douglas of the Camillus Fire Department.

The foregoing resolution was put to a vote which resulted as follows:

Patricia Butler	Mayor	Voted - Yes
Ann Eckert	Trustee	Voted - Abstain
Helen Kiggins Walsh	Trustee	Voted - Yes
Martin Rinaldo	Trustee	Voted - Yes
Susan Hines	Trustee	Voted - Yes

The motion was duly adopted.

Upon motion of Trustee Eckert, seconded by Trustee Walsh and unanimously approved the Board moved to leave the position of 1st Captain vacant.

Attorney Allan stated there has been some discussion regarding the part time position of clerk. Trustee Hines stated that regarding the 19 hour part time position of clerk and Tina Groesbeck filling that position. She called twelve of the fifteen villages in Onondaga County and discovered that everyone she spoke to have an assistant and all were in agreement that the Clerk's Office is not a one person position. She felt there may be a conflict if Ms. Groesbeck was involved in Executive Session and typing minutes for the Executive Session. She now realized that there are no minutes in Executive Session. Trustee Hines recommended that the Board fill the position of Clerk for a total of 19 hours per week with no extra benefits and hire Christina Groesbeck as an employee

Trustee Walsh stated she feels the Village should not be hiring an employee at this time.

Trustee Eckert agreed with Trustee Walsh that the Village should not be hiring an assistant at this time.

Upon the motion of Trustee Hines, seconded by Trustee Rinaldo, the Board hired Christina Groesbeck as an employee in the office at a salary of \$10 per hour and no more than 19 hours per week.

The foregoing resolution was put to a vote which resulted as follows:

Patricia Butler	Mayor	Voted - Yes
Ann Eckert	Trustee	Voted - No
Helen Kiggins Walsh	Trustee	Voted - No
Martin Rinaldo	Trustee	Voted - Yes
Susan Hines	Trustee	Voted - Yes

The motion was duly adopted.

Upon motion of Trustee Rinaldo, seconded by Trustee Hines and unanimously approved the meeting adjourned at 1:16 p.m.

By Tina Groesbeck
Sharon Norcross, Village Clerk/Treasurer