**OTSEGO LAKE TOWNSHIP BOARD**

**APPROVED SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**

**Opening of letters of interest for hiring new fire chief**

**October 6, 2023**

The Otsego Lake Township Special Meeting was called to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 9:00 a.m. by Supervisor Matelski.

Rollcall: Board members present: J Bergel; J Brown; D Matelski; M Brown; D Pallarito

Members absent:

**Also present**: Parliamentarian Randy Stults & Interim Chief Jeff Schermerhorn

Guest: 9 (7 OF WHICH WERE FIRE DEPARTMENT MEMBERS)

Conflicts of interest: None

Denise Pallarito stated she doesn't think we should say who the fire department members want to be chief.

Randy Stults recommends we move forward with the process as indicated for this Special Meeting purpose.

All sealed Fire Department surveys were opened, and membership was verified. There were 12 surveys opened with 11 indicating Jeff Schermerhorn as who should be Fire Chief, 1 survey declined to recommend a name.

Jerry Brown made a motion to appoint Jeff Schermerhorn as Fire Chief; second by Mary Brown.

Randy Stults recommended the Fire Chief's job description is updated prior to selecting anyone for the position, and then have another Special Meeting to make selection. Have it reviewed by our attorney.

Denise Pallarito made a motion to postpone motion until Monday, October 9th, at 1:00 pm' second by Mary Brown. Ayes: 4, Matelski, Pallarito, Bergel, M Brown; No: 1, J Brown. **MOTION CARRIED**.

The posting for the Special Meeting on October 9th will be as follows:

1. Updating job description of fire chief
2. Authorizing for negotiating on employment agreement.
3. Select board member to negotiate with selected candidate for Fire Chief.

Denise Pallarito made a motion to add to the agenda, discussion on security cameras, second by Jerry Brown. **ROLLCALL**: J Brown; yes, D Pallarito; yes, M Brown; yes, J Bergel; yes, D Matelski; yes. **MOTION CARRIED**.

Jerry Brown provided a quote from Cutting Edge Computers for security cameras at the Township Hall for a price of $2,949.99. One in the meeting room, one is hall entrance, one in office, one pointed at ballot drop box, one at entrance coming in to building and one at handicap entrance. After some discussion and questions, including what storage retention cameras have, it will be reviewed at our board meeting on October 19th.

APPROVED

BY: board DATE: 10-19-23

**Public Comment**: Jeff Schermerhorn pointed out that members of the fire department were contacted by a board member asking questions about response time/miles.

Link Hibernig requested that names be excluded on the survey, so the comments stay anonymous. The board agreed to do that prior to distributing to the board for review.

Denise Pallarito said she called Catherine M. at MTA asking about fire department liaison. She said it is **ILLEGAL** to have a fire department liaison.

**The Special Meeting will be held on October 9, 2023, at 1:00 p.m.**

Adjourned at 9:42 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Brown

Mary Brown, Clerk

Minutes for Special Meeting approved by Township Board on October 19, 2023 as corrected