

**HORICON TOWN BOARD  
SPECIAL MEETING**

**SEPTEMBER 5, 2019  
3:00 PM**

Present at meeting:	Matthew Simpson	Supervisor
	Robert Olson	Councilperson
	Sylvia Smith	Councilperson
	Frank Hill	Councilperson
Krista Wood	Town Clerk	
Absent:	Kenneth Higgins	Councilperson

Supervisor Simpson called the meeting to order at 3:00 PM.

He said the purpose of the meeting is to pass a Resolution to amend the Horicon Fire Department LOSAP to increase the monthly service award benefit from \$15.00 to \$20.00, and to increase the maximum number of years of service credit that can be earned from 25 years to 40 years. He noted this was discussed at the last Board meeting and the Proposition will be on the November 5<sup>th</sup> ballot. The current cost of the program is \$18,000 with administration costs of approximately \$4,300; if the voters approve this amendment the cost will increase to \$29,000 which is within the amount previously approved by the Board. Supervisor Simpson noted this amendment will utilize the existing excess funds so there will not be a cost increase to the Town.

Supervisor Simpson said this is designed to recruit and maintain volunteer firemen. Councilperson Smith noted there are only 18 firemen currently, so the Town needs to do something to keep them. Councilperson Olson agreed, noting the fire company is at a critical stage and if it were to get any smaller they would not be able to operate.

**RESOLUTION #106-2019**

Councilperson Smith and Councilperson Olson introduced Res. No. 106 and moved its adoption:

**RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE HORICON FIRE DEPARTMENT LENGTH OF SERVICE AWARD PROGRAM (LOSAP) TO INCREASE THE SERVICE AWARDS PAYABLE TO VOLUNTEERS UNDER THE PROGRAM AND TO INCREASE THE MAXIMUM NUMBER OF YEARS OF SERVICE CREDIT**

WHEREAS, eligible voting residents of the Town of Horicon approved a proposition to establish a Length of Service Award Program for active volunteer firefighter members of the Horicon Fire Department, Inc. effective March 1, 1999 in accordance with Article 11-A of the New York State General Municipal Law (hereinafter the "Law"); and

Whereas, the Town Board of the Town of Horicon (hereinafter the "Board") is the Program Sponsor and Program Administrator of the Horicon Fire Department Length of Service Award Program (hereinafter the "Program"); and

Whereas, under the current Program provisions, volunteers earn a \$15 Monthly Service Award for each year of Service Credit earned up to twenty-five (25) years of such credit in the Program, with the monthly Service Award payments commencing to the volunteer upon attainment of the Program Entitlement Age of sixty-five (65); and

Whereas, the Law authorizes the Board to seek approval by Town residents at a mandatory referendum of amendments to the Program; and

Whereas, these amendments are intended to enable the Town to improve the Service Award Program benefits for active volunteer firefighter members of the Horicon Fire Department, Inc.; and

Whereas, any increased cost will be paid through the current amount collected and is not expected to result in any increase in cost to property owners in the Town Fire Protection District; and

Whereas, such improvement in the Service Award Program benefits is consistent with the intent of the Program to help the Horicon Fire Department, Inc. recruit and retain active volunteer firefighters; now, therefore, be it

**Resolved**, that the Town Board of the Town of Horicon, as authorized by Article 11-A of the Law, hereby amends the Volunteer Firefighter Service Award Program to increase the Monthly Service Award from \$15 to \$20 for years of service credit earned after 2019; and

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- Be it further resolved, that the calendar year 2019 cost of the Program was about \$18,000 or about \$500 per participating volunteer, which includes the annual cost of administration of about \$4,300. If voters approve this amendment, the annual cost of the amended program for current participants is estimated to increase to about \$29,000, or \$785 per participating volunteer. There will be no increase in administrative fees expected as a result of this amendment and the increased cost will be paid through the current amount collected, so the revision is not expected to result in any increase in cost to property owners in the Town Fire Protection District; and
- Be it further resolved, that the Town Board hereby amends the Volunteer Firefighter Service Award Program to increase the maximum number of years of Service Credit that can be earned by a volunteer from twenty-five (25) to forty (40), which is the maximum number of years of credit that may be earned under the current Law; and
- Be it further resolved, that all other provisions of the Program which require voter approval shall not change and the Program shall continue to be administered in accordance with Article 11-A of the Law as such law is amended from time to time; and
- Be it further resolved, that any amendments to Program documents required to effectuate the intent of this Resolution are hereby authorized and approved; and
- Be it further resolved, that this Resolution is subject to mandatory referendum and the Town Board hereby authorizes and directs the Town Clerk and Town Counsel to prepare propositions relating to this Resolution to be placed on the November 5, 2019 election ballot for the approval or disapproval of the eligible voters within the Town Fire Protection District, and the Town Clerk, with the advice of Town Counsel, to prepare abstracts of the propositions, and
- Be it further resolved, that the Town Board hereby authorizes and directs the Town Clerk to transmit a certified copy of this Resolution together with the propositions and abstracts to the Warren County Board of Elections or other appropriate officials so that the proposition will be placed on the November 5, 2019 election ballot in all the voting locations in the Town of Horicon Fire Protection District; and
- Be it further resolved, that the Town Supervisor, Town Clerk and Town Counsel are hereby authorized and directed to take such additional actions as may be necessary and appropriate in connection with the mandatory referendum and the Program amendments.

Ayes: 5 (Smith, Higgins, Olson, Hill, Simpson) Nays: 0

Other Business: Supervisor Simpson said he has a request from Emma Jones to either lease or purchase a 50 ft x 150 ft strip of Town owned property that adjoins her property to be used for a beehive. Councilperson Hill said he is not interested in a lease; if anything, he would rather sell it if they decide to move forward. Supervisor Simpson said the Board members need to walk the property before making a decision. He said there is a process the Town would go through if they decide to sell it. The Board agreed to look the property over before making any further decisions.

Adjourn... There being no further business to attend to the meeting was adjourned at 3:16 PM by MOTION of Councilperson Smith and Councilperson Olson, all in favor.

Respectfully Submitted:

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Town Clerk