

**Joint Public Hearing of
Village of Avoca
Town of Avoca
Town of Wheeler**

The hearing was called to order at 7:03 by Supervisor Wightman

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Attorney Mark Butler spoke to the group about his involvement with the creation of the new Avoca Fire District formation. A presentation is attached with all the details.

Assistant Fire Chief Randy Hammond spoke about the history of the fire and ambulance in Avoca. Most members are both ambulance and fire members. They have an average of 100 calls per year. Jean Derick was asked how many calls are for the Town of Wheeler. Asst Chief Hammond said about 20.

A required public announcement about the hearing was given to the three clerks. This new fire district is actually a new municipality. It is regulated by the State of New York. Atty butler showed the map of the new district (also in the attachment).

The Town of Avoca will collect the tax payments of the new district. The Town of Avoca then immediately pays it over to the fire district.

On the second Tuesday in December, there will be a fire commissioners' election. For this year, the new commission will serve until December 2024.

The floor was open for questions.

Brandi Miller asked about the equalization rate?

Marcia Rowe Smalt asked if the change in equalization rate would change the numbers that have been put in the budget. It was explained that the equation that is being presented has the equalization rate changing with any new information entered.

A Member of the audience asked the cost of the new pumper truck.

Jean Derrick asked why the payment to the Village was so much less for the Town of Avoca than the new payment to the fire district. It was explained the the cost for Wheeler would have been raised considerably the next year even if the district wasn't created.

Another question was raised about the maintenance on some of the trucks. It was explained that E6 will become a rescue truck and the new truck being purchased will be a pumper truck.

Mayor Tyner asked if the new commission members could be announced.

The names are: Kevin Kowalczyk, Bob Cooper, Willam McMahan, Glenn Neu, Kelly Rodbourn and Bev Bellanger.

At this time, there were no other comments so Supervisor Wightman asked if we could start the next meeting to vote on creating the new Avoca Fire District.

Village Trustee Marcia Rowe Smalt made the 1st motion, 2nd by Village Trustee Andy Hubbard All in Favor
The hearing was adjourned at 8:07.