

**UNION VALE TOWN BOARD MEETING SEPTEMBER 10, 2018**  
TOWN HALL 249 DUNCAN ROAD LAGRANGEVILLE NY 7:30 PM  
SPECIAL MEETING: LIBRARY CONTRACT

**PRESENT: Supervisor Maas**

**Council: Steven Frazier, Corrina Kelley David McMorris, & John Welsh**

**Attorney: Jeffery Battistoni**

**Town Clerk: Andrea Casey**

**THE MEETING WAS OPENED WITH THE FLAG SALUTE.**

Roll Call Attendance:

Supervisor Maas	Present
Councilman McMorris	Present
Councilman Welsh	Present
Councilman Frazier	Present
Councilwoman Kelley	Present

Supervisor Maas gave the background on the Library negotiations. This meeting is in response to the second draft and what the Board feels should happen going forward. She then read Resolution #18-22 so the Board could have a discussion.

*Councilwoman Kelley* wanted to apologize for holding the special meeting on Rosh Hashanah for those that celebrate the Holiday due to the timing of the meeting and being unable to attend and believes this could wait until September 20<sup>th</sup>.

*Councilman Frazier* stated that the resolution seemed like a reasonable compromise.

*Councilman Welsh* said he is anxious to continue library services for the residents and explained that not everything has to be agreed upon however, the Town was willing to pay almost everything MHLS wanted. He said the Towns request for information from MHLS has been forthcoming and therefore has been resolved however, the only issue is the continued 2% increase based on the State property tax cap. He feels this is rather excessive when compared to other Towns of comparable size for library service throughout the State. It was a generous offer on the Town's part to pay the \$76,407.00 for 3 years in a row as the number of cardholders seems to be shrinking but, it is an important element that cannot be ignored and a necessary service. To move forward he would like the voter's input as he got feedback from residents in support of the full funding but also some who felt even the \$76,407 was too much and asked for renegotiation. He hopes they can move forward and come to an agreement for 2019.

*Councilman McMorris* was in favor of going to the 1-year contract when the first offer was rejected. He feels with the unexpected bills coming in from the County, that they cannot negotiate, which is almost the same cost as the library contract. With choosing the 1-year contract it gives the Town the opportunity to discuss further detail with MHLS and investigate other possible options.

*Supervisor Maas* agreed and although wants to continue library service for the 1,700 users, said she was surprised MHLS did not accept the first draft and feels the 1-year contract is a great compromise because it will give the Town time to work on solidifying the relationship with MHLS as there has been confusion. She also spoke about the numerous phone calls she received even today regarding the use of library funding. Supervisor Maas stated she felt uncomfortable when presented with a bill of this size, when there is not a majority of the population on board with it. Therefore, the best decision is to either sign the 1-year agreement which gives the Board time or put it on the ballot and have the residents make the decision and then the Board would happily act on the majority of voters wishes.

*Councilwoman Kelley* asked that line "declined to give annual numbers indicating how many Union Vale residents have active cards at each of the four local libraries;" be stricken from the resolution as they had presented that information.

Supervisor Maas said it was a response to the contract and in the MHLS contract it said they declined therefore, they can only refer to what the contract says although she added, it is great they were able to give the information to the Board.

Councilwoman Kelley also added she felt it was incorrect when Councilman Welsh stated the numbers were dropping when 45 new cardholders were added this year. Supervisor Maas made a few points about how the numbers were interpreted but agreed with Councilman Welsh that the number of cardholders had dropped 9% since 2014. There was further discussion about what a cardholder meant.

Councilwoman Kelley pointed that the last few years the MHLS has been consistently around the 2%. Councilman Welsh added he was looking out for tax payers and did not want them to feel as if the Town Board agreed to everything that was presented to them and because it is a necessity wants to get the best deal possible for those paying the taxes.

Supervisor Maas pointed out the shared service agreement with the County and the Works Comp is \$74,000 (375% increase) which is required by State law where no negotiation exists. There was further discussion about how the Board is meeting budget goals and pushing back anywhere they can.

Supervisor Maas pointed out that this was not a public hearing, this was a date the Board was all available to meet and it needed to be within the time frame during which the proposition must be returned to the Board of Elections and was not intended to put undue pressure on the libraries.

After the vote, Supervisor Maas said she would execute the contract and get it out tomorrow. If it is not signed and returned by the 25<sup>th</sup> they will proceed with the proposition on the ballot.

#### **MOTION TO ADJOURN**

Councilman Welsh made motion to adjourn at 5:21pm which was seconded by Supervisor Maas and all were unanimously in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,  
*Andrea Casey*  
Town Clerk

#### **Resolution # 18-22: The purpose of this Resolution is to Respond to the Agreement for Public Library Funding, Draft # 2 offered in response to the Union Vale Counter Offer to Draft # 1.**

**Whereas**, the Town Board of the Town of Union Vale approved a counter offer to the *Agreement for Public Library Funding* on July 19<sup>th</sup> 2018 in which it committed to pay to Mid-Hudson Library System \$76,407 per year for three years, with no annual increase but with the request that the Town of Union Vale receive an annual report indicating the number of Union Vale residents with active cards at each of the four local libraries wishing to receive compensation;

**Whereas**, the Mid-Hudson Library System rejected the Union Vale offer and submitted a second draft requesting an annual increase by “*a minimum of 2% or the rate of inflation as per the New York State Property Tax Cap limits over the previous year’s funding*”, and declined to give annual numbers indicating how many Union Vale residents have active cards at each of the four local libraries;

**Whereas**, the Town Board of the Town of Union Vale proposes to change the terms of the 2019 *Agreement for Public Library Funding* to a one-year funding agreement;

**Now therefore, be it resolved,** that the Town Board of the Town of Union Vale Authorizes the Supervisor to execute a one-year agreement with Mid-Hudson Library System for a payment of \$76,407 for the calendar year 2019 commencing on January 1, 2019 and ending on December 31, 2019; and

**Be it further resolved,** that if the Mid-Hudson Library System and the Town do not execute such one-year agreement on or before September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2018, then the Town shall submit the issue to the voters as a Proposition in the November election as follows:

*“Proposition: Shall the Town Board of the Town of Union Vale execute the proposed agreement with the Mid-Hudson Library System submitted for a term of three years providing for a payment of \$76,407 per year with an annual increase of a “minimum of 2% or the rate of inflation as per the New York State Property Tax Cap limits”?*

-----  
The preceding resolution was offered by Councilman Welsh, who moved its adoption,  
seconded by Councilman Frazier.

The question of the adoption of the foregoing Resolution was duly put to a vote on roll call which resulted as follows:

Supervisor Maas	Aye
Councilman Frazier	Aye
Councilman McMorris	Aye
Councilwoman Kelley	Aye
Councilman Welsh	Aye

Ayes 5 Noes 0