

VILLAGE OR RED HOOK
PUBLIC HEARING
7-12-07
LOSAP/PENFLEX

Present: Mayor Cohen, Trustee Kovalchik, Trustee Trapp, Trustee Gilfeather,

Ed Holohan from Penflex presented the Village Board with a power point presentation. This program is for volunteer fire fighters and is a contribution program based on a point system. The Village must have a referendum vote for approval to add this on the tax base. This vote will take place on Tuesday July 17th, 2007 at the Red Hook Fire House from 12:00 noon to 9:00 pm. Both the Village of Red Hook and Tivoli must have a referendum vote. The Town of Red Hook does not require a referendum. Firefighters must be 65 years old to collect and can earn up to five years back. If there is a death benefit before the age of 65 there is a payout. Firefighter's contributions are based upon how many calls have been attended and training. Statements are issued yearly. A five year buy back will be in place and be paid off in a period of over 10 years. Mayor Cohen stated that he Village accountant stated that a new tax credit is in place for volunteer firefighters and if they are enrolled in a pension they do not qualify for this tax deduction. Ed assured the board that the has not heard of this clause in the law but he will investigate and advise. The first two years is a trial period and through a referendum vote the tax payers may opt to disband this service. Currently there are approximately 65 volunteer firefighters with the Red Hook Fire Co. and 31 will qualify for this service. Currently the Village has \$ 30,000.00 in the budget for LOSAP. It is a state law that the Village is the administrator of this plan. Penflex is the sub contractor. The average return on funds is 6-7 %. All programs are subject to an audit. Trustee Gilfeather stated that if the Village disbanded, the Town tax payers would pay the additional cost. Gary Coon who is a firefighter questioned if other plans were considered at a lower rate. Ed stated that the program that has been discussed is a better one but also to remember that these figures are all estimates. Gary did comment that he felt that it was sad that more firefighter didn't show up at this public hearing to show their support.

9:40 pm

Trustee Gilfeather made a motion to adjourn this public hearing. Trustee Kovalchik seconded. All were in favor.

Submitted by,

Cynthia Cole
Clerk/Treasurer