

SPECIAL FLEMING TOWN BOARD MEETING –PUBLIC HEARING

March 20, 2023

Call to Order by Supervisor Don Oltz at 6:30 pm followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call by Town Clerk, Anita Casper, found the following Board Members present:

Supervisor Don Oltz
Councilwoman Karen VanLiew
Councilwoman Donna Gilfus
Councilman David MacDonald
Councilwoman Maureen Riester

Also present: Town Attorney, Michael D. Quill, Jr., Brad Pinsky, Esq., Zach Longstreth, JD (see attached list for public present)

Brad Pinsky of Pinsky Law Group, PLLC took the floor to give a brief overview of both the dissolution of the Fleming Fire Protection District and the formation of the Fleming Fire District and giving an effective date of October 2, 2023 for both the dissolution and formation.

OPEN PUBLIC HEARING: DISSOLUTION FLEMING FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT – A motion was made by Councilman MacDonald to open a Public Hearing, 2nd by Councilwoman VanLiew. Ayes 5-0. This motion was passed on the following roll call vote:

Supervisor Oltz	Yes
Councilwoman VanLiew	Yes
Councilwoman Gilfus	Yes
Councilman MacDonald	Yes
Councilwoman Riester	Yes

OPEN PUBLIC HEARING: FORMATION OF FLEMING FIRE DISTRICT – A motion was made by Councilman MacDonald to open a Public Hearing, 2nd by Councilwoman Gilfus. Ayes 5-0. This motion was passed on the following roll call vote:

Supervisor Oltz	Yes
Councilwoman VanLiew	Yes
Councilwoman Gilfus	Yes
Councilman MacDonald	Yes
Councilwoman Riester	Yes

Supervisor Oltz advised the public interested in being heard to take the podium, provide their name and address and they will be given two (2) minutes to speak. The following Fleming residents were recognized to speak:

1. Lance Walters, Willowbrook Road – What is the financial benefit in forming a fire district as opposed to keeping the current fire companies as is? Supervisor Oltz explained that currently, the fire companies are included in the Fleming town budget and forming the fire district would allow for establishing their own budget not affected by the town’s 2% tax cap. Brad Pinsky elaborated on the subject.
2. Gordon Parsons, Silver Street Road – Asked Mr. Pinsky to describe in detail the increased cost of a new fire truck. Mr. Pinsky stated that the cost of a new fire truck has doubled in the past 6 years going from \$450,000 to approximately \$800,000. He also explained cost increases for other trucks and equipment.
3. James Coral, Townline Road – Explained that the cost of a new truck is \$800,000 and it would take over 500 chicken barbeque events to pay for just one truck. Which is obviously not possible. The current financing situation is not sustainable in the town of Fleming.
4. Chris Lawton, Old State Road – Has this board done any research as to what it’s actually going to cost to dissolve/form new fire district? Mr. Lawton stated that he was aware of an “up-front” cost of \$15,000 but wanted to know a total. Mr. Pinsky estimated additional costs as: approximately \$10,000 per year in audit and legal services after the first year.
5. Mary May, Delaney Road – Asked both chiefs from company #1 and #2 how they feel about the changes about to be made and if they are willing to work together and get along to form one fire district. Both chiefs, Scott Kehoe and Rick Saxton, stated they are looking forward to the formation of the new fire district and are already working together towards the common goal of a successful unification.
6. Lisa Schiminske, Rosewood Drive – Lisa stated that she was the former bookkeeper for the Town of Fleming and explained her experience with the annual budget process for the 2 fire companies over the years. She indicated her agreement with the board to form a new fire district.

CLOSING PUBLIC HEARING: DISSOLUTION FLEMING FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT – A motion to close the public hearing was made by Councilwoman VanLiew, 2nd by Councilman MacDonald. Ayes 5-0. This motion was passed on the following roll call vote:

Supervisor Oltz	Yes
Councilwoman Gilfus	Yes
Councilwoman Riester	Yes
Councilman MacDonald	Yes
Councilwoman VanLiew	Yes

CLOSING PUBLIC HEARING: FORMATION FLEMING FIRE DISTRICT – A motion to close the public hearing was made by Councilwoman Riester, 2nd by Councilwoman Gilfus. Ayes 5-0. This motion was passed on the following roll call vote:

Supervisor Oltz	Yes
Councilwoman Gilfus	Yes
Councilwoman Riester	Yes
Councilman MacDonald	Yes
Councilwoman VanLiew	Yes

RESOLUTION TO FORM FLEMING FIRE DISTRICT EFFECTIVE 10/2/2023 – A motion to accept the resolution was made by Councilwoman Riester, 2nd by Councilman MacDonald. Ayes 5-0. This motion was passed on the following roll call vote:

Supervisor Oltz	Yes
Councilwoman Gilfus	Yes
Councilwoman Riester	Yes
Councilman MacDonald	Yes
Councilwoman VanLiew	Yes

RESOLUTION TO DISSOLVE FLEMING FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT EFFECTIVE 10/2/2023 – A motion to accept the resolution was made by Councilwoman Riester, 2nd by Councilwoman Gilfus. Ayes 5-0. This motion was passed on the following roll call vote:

Supervisor Oltz	Yes
Councilwoman Gilfus	Yes
Councilwoman Riester	Yes
Councilman MacDonald	Yes
Councilwoman VanLiew	Yes

Councilwoman Riester made a motion to adjourn at 7:20 p.m. 2nd by Councilwoman Gilfus. Ayes 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Anita Casper
Fleming Town Clerk