

**SPECIAL TOWN BOARD MEETING
MARCH 20, 2023 MINUTES AMENDED 4/10/23**

Call to Order by Supervisor Don Oltz at 5:00 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call by Town Clerk, Anita Casper, found the following board members present:

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

Also Present: Michael Quill, Esq., Brad Pinsky, Esq. and Zach Longstreth, JD

Brad Pinsky to Discuss Fire District – Brad Pinsky of Pinsky Law Group, PLLC was present to provide a brief overview to the Town Board regarding the process of the dissolution of the Fleming Fire Protection District and the formation of the Fleming Fire District. Board members asked questions and asked for clarification from Mr. Pinsky as to be fully prepared for the Public Hearing regarding the two (2) resolutions to be passed. Below is a brief synopsis of Mr. Pinsky's remarks:

A fire district provides more accountability as opposed to a fire department. All meetings will be open to the public. The town board will appoint 5 fire commissioners for the new fire district; thereafter, the public will vote for the commissioners. Mr. Pinsky stated that the law dictates there will be 1 chief for the department (both companies combined). However, there is no penalty for having 2 chiefs. Fleming could start out with 2 chiefs and work their way towards one central chief. When asked if there is something in place to control spending he stated that a fire district is only allowed to spend \$1,000.00 for every \$1,000,000 of taxable assessed valuation. Therefore, spending is capped. The spending limit can be increased only by a public vote. He also stated that consolidating the 2 companies into a single fire district has the following advantages: In a fire district, you are eligible to apply for grants from the government that are not available to the two current fire companies. Also, consolidating brings about organization and efficiency by having 1 set of policy and procedure, standardized equipment and 1 set of training procedures. With respect to liability, he feels that in the first 2 years the companies should lease all equipment, trucks, etc. to the new district at a fair price. Eventually having the district own all the vehicles and equipment and be responsible for all repairs and cost of replacement. That way, the district alone is responsible for all liability and the companies are not. As soon as the district is formed on October 2, 2023 a Capital Plan should be formed for both companies regarding needs for the next 20 years so they can begin saving money. Any money saved by the companies through tax dollars for a specific purpose should be turned over from the companies to the district to be put in reserve for that same purpose thereby allowing the district to purchase, repair and replace equipment on the district level.

A motion to adjourn was made at 6:00 p.m. by Councilwoman Riester, 2nd by Councilwoman Gilfus. Ayes 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted,
Fleming Town Clerk