

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL TOWN BOARD MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, December 18, 2024 AT 6:00 P.M. AT THE FORT ANN Town Hall**

**PRESENT:** Supervisor Samuel J. Hall  
Councilman George F. Smith  
Councilwoman Deborah Witherell  
Councilwoman Gretchen Stark

**ABSENT:** Councilman Michael Sexton  
Jeff Meyers- Town Attorney

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Miranda Herringshaw-Town Clerk, Jon Pollock, Trent Pollock, Christine Milligan, Paul Milligan, Jon Lashinsky, Andrew Call

Meeting was called to order at 6:00 P.M. with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Supervisor Hall stated that the meeting was being held in order to discuss an authorization letter from the Town of Fort Ann to the Fort Ann Volunteer Fire Department regarding the purchase of a new fire truck.

The fire truck would need to be ordered by December 31, 2024 in order to have the current proposed pricing, the fire department was told they should expect to see a 3% price increase each new quarter.

Supervisor Hall stated that if the Town Board approves the authorization letter that does not mean that the Town will increase the budget amount, the fire department would be responsible for budgeting appropriately with the monies that they are currently receiving. Supervisor Hall stated that he cannot promise the fire company additional monies when we never know what the budget will look like from year to year, so it is in the best interest of the Town and Fire Department to have a plan in place to pay for this truck, without relying on any additional money from the Town.

**\*\*A copy of the truck specifications and the letter the Fire Department provided the Town Board with, will be attached to these minutes in their entirety.**

Supervisor Hall emphasized many times throughout this meeting that any authorization granted at the meeting this evening is solely for the authorization letter to be given, not for any funding of this truck.

Supervisor Hall did ask Chief Lashinsky how much this vehicle would cost the fire company on an annual basis, Chief Lashinsky stated that the purchase of this truck would cost the fire department about \$85,000.00 per year for the longevity of the loan.

Motion made by Councilwoman Witherell, seconded by Councilman Smith to supply the Fort Ann Fire Department with an authorization letter for the purchase of a new fire truck to be delivered sometime in 2027.

Motion was carried unanimously.

6:53 p.m. Motion was introduced by Councilman Smith, seconded by Councilwoman Stark to adjourn.

Motion was carried unanimously.

Dated: December 20, 2024

Respectfully submitted,

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Miranda Herringshaw, Town Clerk  
Town of Fort Ann, New York

DRAFT



## *Fort Ann Volunteer Fire Company Inc.*

*P.O. Box 305  
11289 State Route 149  
Fort Ann, NY 12827  
(518) 639-8811*



*Chief Jon Lashinsky*

*President Jon Pollock*

12/18/2024

To the Town Board and Residents of the Town of Fort Ann, County of Washington, State of New York,

We are reaching out to express our urgent need for a new fire truck to replace our current first due engine rescue. According to NFPA standards, first due front line trucks should be replaced every 15 years or moved to be a standby unit. Our current truck, a Ferrara pumper with a 1500 GPM pump and a 1000-gallon tank, was delivered in January 2016. While it has served us, it has never fully met our needs and is now becoming increasingly unreliable.

Our current truck lacks the necessary space for essential equipment required for our coverage area and mutual aid departments, some of these departments also in the town of Fort Ann. It was our intention to keep the current truck for as long as possible however the maintenance costs are skyrocketing, with over \$10,000 spent on repairs this year alone, and several thousand over years passed. This situation is unsustainable and puts our ability to provide the best possible service at risk.

Our community deserves a fire department that can respond quickly and effectively in emergencies. Without a reliable vehicle, our response times and capabilities are severely hindered. To help fund the new truck, we plan to sell the current one upon delivery of the new vehicle, potentially generating \$225,000 to \$300,000 based on current market trends.

The new truck has been carefully designed by a committee of experts to meet the specific needs of our town. It will enhance our ability to serve all of Fort Ann and provide mutual aid to surrounding areas when needed for years to come.

Our truck committee has traveled to several departments in surrounding areas to look at different manufacturers' vehicles and get firsthand opinions from other firefighters. We have spoken with Toyne Fire Apparatus, who stated they would not be able to build anything within our budget and did not quote us. We also spoke with Marion Fire Apparatus, who quoted \$1,600,000 and Pierce Fire Apparatus who quoted \$1,900,000 all for trucks built to the same exact specifications as the Rosenbauer we are showing you , priced at approximately \$850,000.00.

There are many other manufacturers building fire trucks; however, many of them will not be anywhere near within our responsibly budgeted amount, while others do not meet the minimum standards set forth to provide the best coverage to our community.

The truck we are presenting to you is expected to take approximately 2 1/2 years to build, which is standard for all manufacturers. We can expect delivery sometime in the year 2027. This truck



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will have a 2000-gallon-per-minute pump, a 1000-gallon water tank, and ample storage for all of our current equipment and any future additions we may need to make.

We are here today to request the town board's assistance in financing this vehicle, given our current budget constraints and financial situation. It is impossible for us to afford the payment for this critically needed apparatus on our own. The cost of the vehicle is now approximately \$850,000 and is expected to increase by about 3% each quarter, with a significant rise anticipated in January. We are asking if the town can hold the loan for this vehicle, as traditional financing would result in us paying over \$400,000 in interest alone by the end of the loan term. This would place an enormous burden on our already strained budget. We also seek your assistance and any other suggestions you may have to help us manage this financial challenge.

We deeply appreciate your understanding and support in this critical matter as building a truck for the future needs of the citizens of Fort Ann is an extremely important task to us. Your approval of this purchase will significantly enhance our ability to protect and serve our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jon Lashinsky". The signature is written in a cursive style and is followed by a long horizontal line.

Chief Jon L. Lashinsky

Fort Ann Volunteer Fire Co.



*Chief Jon Lashinsky*

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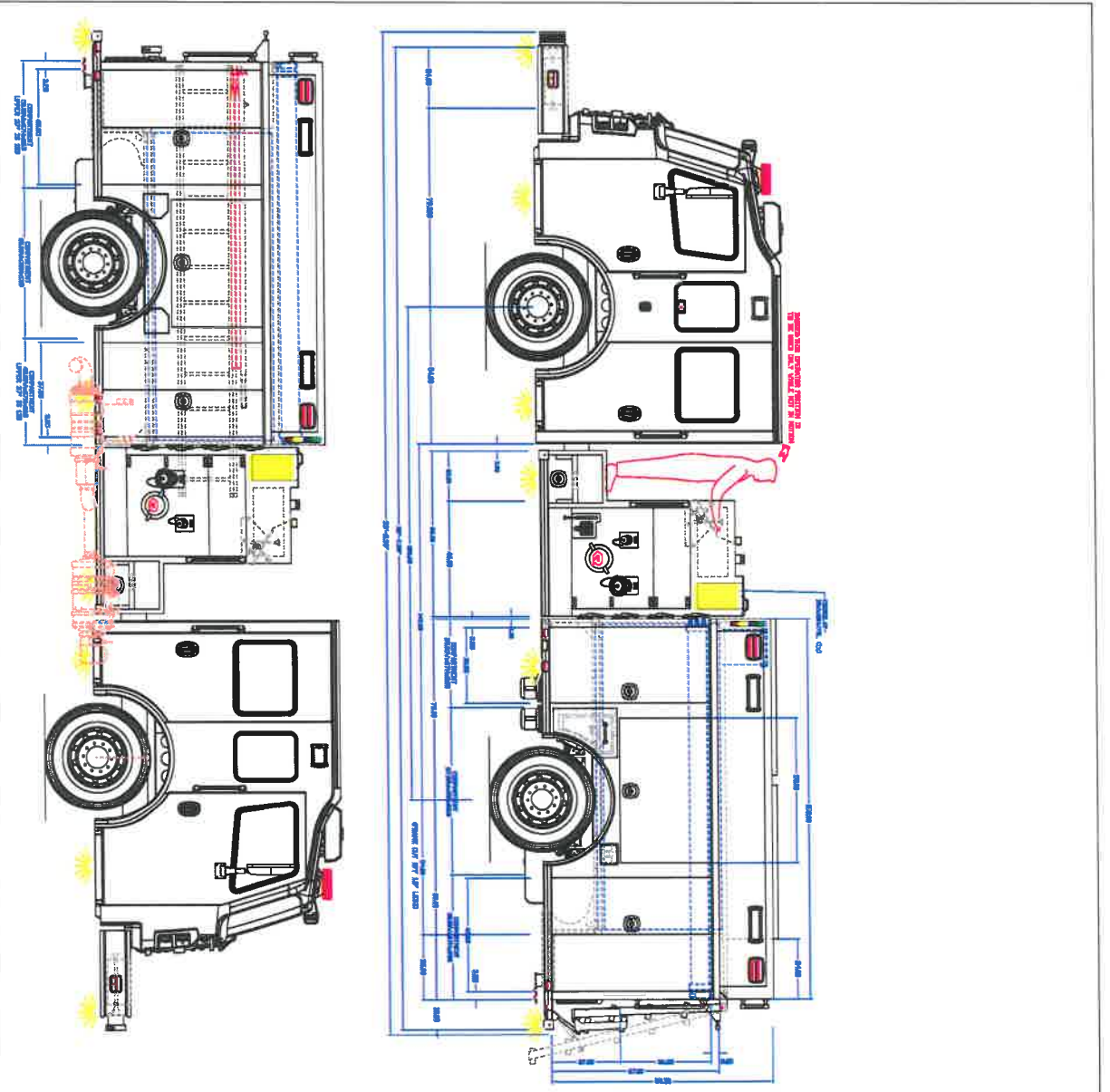
*President Jon Pollock*

Here are several reasons why buying a used fire truck might not be a good idea for providing fire coverage to our community:

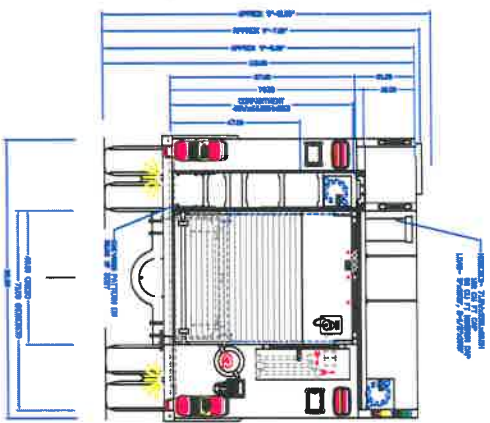
1. **Reliability Issues:** Used fire trucks may have higher chances of mechanical failures due to wear and tear, which can compromise response times and effectiveness during emergencies.
2. **Maintenance Costs:** Older vehicles often require more frequent and costly maintenance, which can quickly add up and strain the department's budget.
3. **Outdated Technology:** Used fire trucks may lack the latest safety features and technological advancements that newer models offer, potentially putting firefighters and the community at greater risk.
4. **Limited Customization:** A used fire truck may not meet the specific needs and requirements of our community, such as equipment storage and layout.
5. **Size Restrictions:** We are limited by the size of our current building and the narrow rural roadways in our farm town. A used truck might not fit these constraints, leading to operational inefficiencies.
6. **Compliance with Standards:** Newer trucks are more likely to comply with the latest NFPA standards and regulations, ensuring better safety and performance.
7. **Resale Value:** The current market for used fire trucks is exceptionally high. Locations that do not follow NFPA standards (i.e. outside USA) or can use older vehicles as reserve units are paying top dollar for these vehicles due to the extended wait times for new apparatus builds, thus bringing a used vehicle comparable to our price of the new one to fit our needs.
8. **Warranty and Support:** New fire trucks come with warranties and manufacturer support, which can be crucial for addressing any issues that arise.
9. **Community Trust:** Investing in a new fire truck can enhance the community's trust in the fire department's ability to provide reliable and effective emergency services.

Considering these points, it's clear that purchasing a new fire truck would better serve our community's needs and ensure the safety of both our firefighters and residents.





- NOTES:
1. OVERALL HEIGHT IS IN LOADED CONDITION. UNLOADED HEIGHTS MAY BE 4" ABOVE HEIGHTS SHOWN.
  2. DO NOT SCALE DRAWING.
  3. ALL DIMENSIONS ARE APPROXIMATE AND SUBJECT TO ENGINEERING CHANGES.
  4. DRAWING MAY OR MAY NOT SHOW ALL ITEMS AS DESCRIBED IN THE WRITTEN DETAIL SPECIFICATIONS.
  5. INCLUSION OF AN ITEM ON THE DRAWING DOES NOT CONSTITUTE WARRANTY BY THE MANUFACTURER WITH THE FULL DELIVERED UNIT.
  6. THE SPECIFIC HOOD OPENING WILL BE APPROXIMATELY LESS THAN THE NOTED COMPARTMENT OPENING FOR ROLL UP DOORS AND UP TO APPROX. 4" LESS FOR Hinged DOORS.



APPROVED BY:

|                 |                |
|-----------------|----------------|
| CHASSIS:        | COMMANDER S411 |
| PUMP:           | HALE 2000 GPM  |
| TANK:           | POLY/1000      |
| PANEL MOUNT:    | LINE X         |
| COMP INTERIOR:  | LINE X         |
| MAXIMUM HEIGHT: | NONE           |
| MAXIMUM LENGTH: | 33'6"          |
| BODY WIDTH:     | 101"           |

REVISED - DATE -  
 DRAWN - VA - DATE 12-08-24  
 PROPRIETARY AND CONFIDENTIAL  
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**FORT ANN VOL. FIRE  
 COMPANY INC, NY**

