

TOWN OF GAINES
EMERGENCY MEETING – NOVEMBER 15, 2022

The emergency meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Gaines, County of Orleans, State of New York was called to order by Supervisor Tyler Allport at 7:00 P. M. on the 15th day of November, 2022.

The following town official were present:

Tyler Allport	Supervisor
James Kirby	Deputy Supervisor
Mary Neilans	Councilperson
Ronald Mannella	Councilperson
Kenneth Rush	Councilperson
Susan Heard	Town Clerk

The following individuals were present during meeting: Mike Gugliuzza, Director of Operations for Mercy Flight; 5 residents and guests; Tom Rivers, Orleans Hub

The Supervisor opened the meeting with the Pledge to the Flag.

RESOLUTION NO. 101 – 1122
AUTHORIZING CORRECTION TO THE 2023 BUDGET

Moved by Councilperson Kirby and seconded by Councilperson to correct the 2023 Budget regarding Elected Official salaries.

Ayes 4; Nays 1, Rush

RESOLUTION – TABLED

A resolution was proposed to enter into a contract with Monroe Medi-Trans, Inc. DBA Monroe Ambulance on behalf of the Town of Gaines.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Members of COVA and the representative from Mercy Flight advised the Board that Mercy Flight had taken over the operations of COVA effective midnight this past Sunday. Jennifer Stilwell said COVA was able to transfer the Certificate of Need to Mercy Flight as they are also a not-for-profit agency. COVA members have been told the Town of Albion was in charge of making the decision for all the towns; but they thought they should make their voices heard at the other towns. They have a petition signed by over 130 Town of Gaines residents wishing to keep Mercy Flight as their ambulance provider.

Mercy Flight has offered 3 ambulances and 1 fly-car; agreed to hire all 40 employees; lower the costs to the Towns. Mike Gugliuzza from Mercy Flight said they realize they are late in the game but were not asked to do a formal proposal.

Supervisor Allport said the Town Supervisors have been meeting regularly with COVA; the numbers kept changing, their debt was \$300,000 to \$350,000. COVA has said they will have the debt paid off.

Lorraine Oakley said Monroe Ambulance would supply 2 ambulances, but she understands they would be on the east side of the County; and it's hard to understand why we wouldn't want to have coverage in the central part of the County.

Dick DeCarlo, a large taxpayer in the Town of Gaines, said now with another proposal on the table, the Town Board should take another look at the two proposals; Mercy Flight has better coverage, a higher level of service, and a better price. Mercy Flight operating from the COVA headquarters would keep the ambulances in the center of the towns.

Councilperson Rush said we haven't voted yet.

DeCarlo asked if this will cause a tax increase as he would have to pass those costs on to his residents. Supervisor Allport indicated we would be using American Rescue funds.

DeCarlo said with a higher level of service, \$15,000 less for Mercy Flight, and nothing in Monroe's contract about hiring COVA employees; as elected officials with responsibility to its residents, he implores the Board to reconsider.

Supervisor Allport questioned if the other towns go with Monroe Ambulance, what happens to Gaines? Councilperson Rush thanked COVA, he said COVA has been there for his family and friends, then asked Mercy Flight how their billing and collections are different than how COVA bills? Mike Gugliuzza from Mercy Flight responded they have been in the business for 40 years as a not for profit, they know billing. When they bill the health insurance company, they get paid the money directly from the Network. Only co-pays or the uninsured are billed directly.

Lively discussion followed.

Councilperson Mannella said the way he understood it, if we don't vote for Monroe, or all seven towns didn't agree, the contract was void if one town opted out.

Motion by Supervisor Allport to table the Resolution Entering into a Contract with Monroe Medi-Trans, Inc. dba Monroe Ambulance for the Town of Gaines; seconded by Councilperson Kirby.

Ayes 5; Nays 0

TABLED

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by Councilperson Kirby and seconded by Councilperson Neilans at 8:02 P. M.

Ayes 5; Nays 0