

SPECIAL TOWN BOARD MEETING, TOWN OF LIVONIA

November 5, 2025

A meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Livonia, County of Livingston and the State of New York was held at Livonia Town Hall, 35 Commercial St Livonia NY 14487

PRESENT: Eric Gott, Supervisor
Joseph Breu, Councilmember
Peter Dougherty, Councilmember
Andy English, Councilmember
Matt Gascon, Councilmember
Hayley Woodruff, Clerk
Jim Campbell, Attorney, Town of Livonia

OTHERS PRESENT: Several Residents. Livonia Ambulance Commissioners. Supervisor Gott called the meeting to order at 6pm. Supervisor Gott led the pledge of allegiance.

Attorney Campbell thanked everyone for being here and everyone in the room's optimism and reiterated that there will be no public comment tonight but open for the public to listen. He stated he had a conversation with Attorney Cohen today and it was probably the most productive half hour thus far between the attorney involved. Attorney Campbell said it was important to him on behalf of the Town to understand some basic perspective and impressions, with his main concern being the difference in opinion between Attorney Cohen and himself related to the autonomy of the existing Town of Livonia ambulance district. The purpose of the call was to make sure Attorney Campbell had an understanding of TLAD's position regarding this issue, and how we vision a collaborative effort to make this work. In Jim's experiences he did not understand the Livonia Ambulance District to be autonomous from the Town, unlike a fire district. He does not believe that TLAD has authority to tax and to make decisions unless blessed by the Town. Mr. Cohen believed the ambulance is autonomous and able to levy taxes. Mr. Cohen had prepared a plan that he thought may work on behalf of TLAD to present to the Town, based on the premise that the ambulance district has different authority to act independently than the Town understood. In the end they agreed as it relates to ambulance districts that there is not in fact the autonomy that Mr. Cohen thought existed. Attorney Campbell comes from a problem-solving standpoint, not attorneys battling in a court room. He presented a packet to the Town Board members and ambulance commissioners that is a starting point for discussions and to eliminate any confusion about the Town's concerns and is hoping that it will assist the Town Board and Commissioners in moving forward with a structure that works for everyone and preserve the ambulance, most importantly.

It was brought up that it was the impression of the Commissioners that the Town Board wanted control and that the Commissioners and ambulance staff would be held personally liable. However, the point of incorporating is to cover personal liability, so the ambulance members and Board of Directors (which would replace the Commissioners) would not be personally liable. As far as the budget is concerned it has been proposed, as it has always been, that the Town Board expects that the Board of Directors will independently formulate and execute its operating budget and long-term capital expenditures plan. The Town Board will approve the contract price and other terms for ambulance service negotiated between the ambulance entity and the Town.

SPECIAL TOWN BOARD MEETING, TOWN OF LIVONIA

November 5, 2025

The Town proposes a two-year term that automatically renews unless there is a notification that there needs to be a discussion to re-evaluate the terms. The hope is that it would be seen as a commitment from the Town to move forward with longevity and the future of the ambulance, with the idea that the long-term goal is that in 10-20-30 years the Livonia ambulance is still serving this community.

Nobody has seen or heard these suggestions before tonight, deliberately, so that everyone is on the same page and playing field.

Some of the Ambulance Commissioners stated they are not interested in becoming a 501c3 because they won't be able to get workers comp insurance through the County. Also because of personal liability. After hearing the explanation of coverage for personal liability from Mr. Campbell they understood. Workers comp is an unknown that will need to be worked out. They expressed it is the unknowns of the 501c3 costs that concern them.

Supervisor Gott said that it was never said that the Town Board wanted control of the ambulance and absolutely never said the Town Board wanted to get rid of the ambulance despite some misinformation that has been sent to a neighboring town and social media. He thought the only way to get this back on track is to do what we are doing tonight. Also, that had the financial request from the ambulance not come up, the Town Board would have never changed a thing about the quality ambulance service this Town has had. Since then, the Town has been advised that there are some corrections that need to be made, and goals and next steps need to be set and keep the ball rolling, so this does not fall apart.

Everyone agreed that it is silly to be paying three attorneys at this point. Attorney Campbell states that there is a reasonable solution to this problem unlike some other issues, but there won't be perfection for either side, it will however accomplish a goal that is shared by all.

This will come down to money, and a discussion about money can't really happen until there is a structure built to run on.

Attorney Campbell asked for thoughts on the packet he presented and wants everyone to reflect on it and say yes or no to exploring this plan as an option. He asked both boards to then make notes on concerns, what needs to be added, removed etc. He expressed the importance of continuous meetings happening. The next meeting is scheduled for November 19th at 6PM at the Livonia Town Hall.

With no further business, on the motion of Councilmember Dougherty seconded by Councilmember Breu the meeting was adjourned at 7:14PM. Carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Hayley Woodruff

SPECIAL TOWN BOARD MEETING, TOWN OF LIVONIA

November 5, 2025

Town Clerk