

HIGHLAND FIRE DISTRICT
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
MEETING MINUTES
September 10, 2013
7:00 PM

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Commissioners: Stephen DiLorenzo, Chairman	(Present)
Benjamin Bragg	(Present)
Christian Erichsen	(Present)
John Fraino	(Present)
Dominick Palladino	(Present)

Secretary/Treasurer Jim Passikoff	(Present)
District Clerk Denise A. Holzberger	(Present)
Chief Peter D. Miller	(Present)

1. Opening of Meeting-Commissioner Stephen DiLorenzo called the meeting to order, led the salute to the flag and asked for a moment of silence for fallen firefighters.

2. Approval of Minutes

Chairman DiLorenzo asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the August 13, 2013 regular meeting.

MOTION: Commissioner Palladino moved to approve the minutes of the August 13, 2013 meeting as amended as follows: page 61 Gas Station 2 "officers should use the gas there" amend to " 31A should use the gas there" seconded by Commissioner Erichsen.

VOTE: 4 Yes 0 No 1 Abstain 0 Absent Commissioner Bragg abstained.

Motion was carried. 2013Sept10--137

Chairman DiLorenzo asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the August 28, 2013 regular meeting.

MOTION: Commissioner Erichsen moved to approve the minutes of the August 28, 2013 special meeting, seconded by Commissioner Palladino.

VOTE: 4 Yes 0 No 1 Abstain 0 Absent Commissioner Bragg abstained.

Motion was carried. 2013Sept10--138

3. Bills- Chairman DiLorenzo asked for a motion to approve payment of the bills as reviewed by Commissioners DiLorenzo and Palladino and Chief Peter Miller on September 9, 2013. It was noted that two bills were audited tonight for payment as follows:

D&D Property Maintenance \$2645.00 and Petty Cash \$31.58

MOTION: Commissioner Palladino moved to approve payment of the bills as reviewed by Commissioner Fraino, himself and Chief Miller on September 9, 2013 and the D& D Property Maintenance and petty cash bill as audited this evening, seconded by Commissioner Bragg.

VOTE: 5 Yes 0 No 0 Abstain 0 Absent

Motion was carried. 2013Sept10-139

4. Correspondence-

In-Coming:

Ulster county Board of Elections-letter re: Primary Day; firehouse not needed

AFDUC-letter re: Sept 19, 2013 meeting at Highland

Assoc. of FDSNY-Mid-Year workshop Thurs Oct 31-Sun Nov 3, 2013

Requests for Use of the Community Room-

Tuesday Feb 25, 2013 1 PM to 6 PM for American Red Cross Blood Drive requested by Steve Leary
MOTION: Commissioner Palladino moved to approve the request from the American Red Cross to hold a Blood Drive on Tuesday February 25, 2014, seconded by Commissioner Bragg.
VOTE: 5 Yes 0 No 0 Abstain 0 Absent
Motion was carried. *2013Sept10-140*

February 19, 2014 Pinewood Derby weigh-in 6 PM to 9PM
February 21, 2014 Pinewood Derby track set-up 5:30 PM to 8:30 PM
February 22, 2014 Pinewood Derby 8:30 AM to 1 PM
Requested by Jocelyn Swart, cub master Cub Scout Pak 70
MOTION: Commissioner Bragg moved to approve the request from the Jocelyn Swart for the Cub Scout Pinewood Derby on February 19, 21 and 22 2014, seconded by Commissioner Erichsen.
VOTE: 5 Yes 0 No 0 Abstain 0 Absent
Motion was carried. *2013Sept10-141*

March 14, 2014 5 PM to 9:30 PM Blue & Gold Dinner
Requested by Jocelyn Swart cub master Cub Scout Pack 70
MOTION: Commissioner Erichsen moved to approve the request from the Jocelyn Swart for the Cub Scout Blue and Gold Dinner on March 14, 2014, seconded by Commissioner Palladino.
VOTE: 5 Yes 0 No 0 Abstain 0 Absent
Motion was carried. *2013Sept10-142*

5. New Member Interviews/Approvals-none

6. Committee Reports:

Buildings and Grounds:

St. 1 Commissioners Bragg and DiLorenzo

Ceiling Tiles St 1.-9/5/13 Commissioner Bragg reported that all ceiling tiles have been replaced except in the radio room. Radio room will be done on September 12, 2013.

Water heater St 1—Chairman DiLorenzo reported that the water heater was installed and is complete
Training facility-work is progressing.

Doors St 1-chairman DiLorenzo noted that the wooden doors are not closing completely. (Ready Room, Bunk Room, Chiefs room and District office.) Chairman DiLorenzo contacted Paul Rinaldi to look at this problem.

Snow Plow-we have two snow plow quotes to be opened in the business session later in the meeting.

St. 2: Commissioners Erichsen and Fraino

Fascia, painting and shed-Commissioner Erichsen reported that he is getting quotes from an architect.

Gas Tank-measurements are needed; Commissioners Fraino and Erichsen to handle.

Thank you letter- Commissioner Erichsen stated that a thank you letter should be sent to Rich Klotz for the stone for the pad.

7. Apparatus Repair: Commissioners Erichsen and DiLorenzo
Chief Miller report there were a few small items just motor mounts for 31-45 are pending.

- 8. Insurance/Workers Comp**-Commissioners Fraino and Palladino
Tank insurance form –pending
- 9. Physicals/Health Program**- letters sent out through Sept 2013
Chief Miller reported that he and the District Clerk are working out some items to fin-tune our system.
- 10. Physical Fitness Program**-Commissioners Erichsen, DiLorenzo and
Chief Miller
3rd Qtr. 2013 All sport- pending
2nd Qtr. 2013 Cross Fit- activity report pending
Activity to be reported at October meeting; third quarter ending.
- 11. Capital Improvement**-Commissioners Bragg and DiLorenzo
Nothing to report
- 12. New Apparatus**-Chief Miller stated that there have been discussion with vendors and will be looking at Walker valley's truck which is due in shortly.
- 13. Ulster County Fire District Association**- Bragg, DiLorenzo, Erichsen
September 19, 2013 meeting will be held here at Highland St.1.
- 14. Rules & Regs**-Commissioners Fraino, Bragg, Chief and HHCo. Pres.
Chief Miller stated that he and the District Clerk are working on a list of items to be given to members at New Member orientation.
- 15. Service Awards**-Commissioners Palladino, Chief, HHCo. Pres. Or their designee
District Clerk Holzberger reported that August 2013 activity was posted September 5, 2013.
- 16. Town Emergency Plan**-Erichsen, Chief, HHCo President
Town of Lloyd Councilman Jeff Paladino stated contact information needs to be updated.
- 17. Treasurer Report**-Treasurer Passikoff
August 2013 Financial Report was distributed to the Board. Treasurer Passikoff reported that bond interest payment was made; this was a light month for expenses: approximately \$27,000.
St1 gas and electric line is electric only; there is a second line for St.1 natural gas.
- MOTION:** Commissioner Bragg moved to accept the august 2013 financial report as submitted by the Treasurer, seconded by Commissioner Palladino.
VOTE: 5 Yes 0 No 0 Abstain 0 Absent
Motion was carried. *2013Sept10-143*
- 18. Inspection Dinner**- September 13, 2013 Pirate Canoe Club 6 Pm Commissioner Fraino noted that the Prime Rib may be changed to filet mignon at no additional cost to us.
- 19. Public Comment**-Town of Lloyd councilman Jeff Paladino reported that approval is pending in October 2013 for the Town of Lloyd Comprehensive Plan.

September 11, 2013 Ceremony-It was noted that the September 11, 2013 Ceremony will be held at 6:30 PM at Station 1.

Chairman Dilorenzo stated that we would deviate from the normal order of business to permit Mr. Jim Jeffries of Northeast Computer Services to update the Board regarding recent computer issues that needed resolution. Mr. Jeffries stated that the files currently held on the depository will now be shifted to a server. This will provide better security. This should be accomplished this week. Email is set up; instruction to follow. Back up is provided; data and programs in storage equal 16.9 gigabytes plus another 1.5 gigabytes have been added. Back up takes place every 15 minutes. In bound data equals 100 megabytes; we use 392,000. The restoration process will be reviewed and meets all requirements as prescribed by the NYS comptroller's Office. Server will be delivered Thursday or Friday. A monthly bill for service will follow. Chairman Dilorenzo thanked the Mr. Jeffries for the update.

20. Chief's Report-

Radio Frequencies-Chief Miller reported that a letter has been sent out as per FCC requirements regarding the radio frequencies. It is a long process before we can make any changes and we are working on that.

NYS AFC Flashover Simulator-sponsor needed. 50 Interior firefighters will take part; food and materials are needed.

Bus extrication Drill-September 12, 2013 we will be working with the schools

SCBA Class-September 14, 2013 (FFI course)

Forcible Entry/Ladders and Ventilation-October 10, 2013 Chief to attend at Sawkill

BBQ at Fireman's Home-October 13, 2013 tentative date

Smart Dummy-order for training

Probation Termination-the following members are now off probation: Volbrecht, Sam Dunham and KJ Wildrick.

Firefighter I Survival Class at Walker Valley-September 14, 2013 one member to attend.

HIT Class Dutchess County-September 20 and 21, 2013 two members to attend and 31-80. This is a live burn.

SCBA Grant-in progress

Apparatus Repair—31-10 and 31-30 paint to be discussed. There was discussion regarding waiting 2 year.

Heating Units-(Buildings- St 1)Commissioner Erichsen recommends replacing.

21. Records Management Grant- District clerk reported that the project has been completed and we have received the balance of funds; total received for this project is \$5294.

22. New Business-

Harassment Prevention Seminar-September 24, 2013 Attendance is mandatory.

Approval of Fireman's BBQ

MOTION: Commissioner Palladino moved to approve fire district members' attendance at the Fireman's BBQ on October 13, 2013, seconded by Commissioner Erichsen.

VOTE: 5 Yes 0 No 0 Abstain 0 Absent

Motion was carried. 2013Sept10-144

Approval of FFI class Attendance at Walker Valley

MOTION: Commissioner Bragg moved to approve one member's attendance with payment for mileage, seconded by Commissioner Palladino.

VOTE: 5 Yes 0 No 0 Abstain 0 Absent

Motion was carried. 2013Sept10-145

Approval of 31-80 and members to Dutchess County Bureau of Fire

MOTION: Commissioner Bragg moved to approve 31-80 to Dutchess County on September 20, and 21 2013 along with two members for training, seconded by Commissioner Palladino.

VOTE: 5 Yes 0 No 0 Abstain 0 Absent

Motion was carried. 2013Sept10-146

Snowplow Proposals

Chairman DiLorenzo stated that we have two proposals for snowplowing as follows:

D & D St 1 every 3" \$225 per plow salt no charge

St 2 every 3 " \$150 per plow salt No charge

FWP St 1 per storm \$412 includes shoveling and salt

St 2 per storm \$255 includes shoveling and salt

Option of \$8600 for the season

It was noted that this is the same price as last year.

LOSAP-Chairman DiLorenzo stated he would like to discuss the possibility of increasing the LOSAP benefit. Commissioner Fraino stated that we previously passed a motion to discuss the proposal in 2014 after we receive financial results of 2013. Chairman DiLorenzo stated that it is not our decision, the public should be given the opportunity to decide. Commissioner Fraino stated that he is totally in favor of it; however we have been wringing our hands over spending nickels and pennies as we have some large financial challenges ahead of us relative to SCBA, infrared cameras, and turnout gear replacement as well as the apparatus replacement reserve falling short of our requirements in 2019. Chairman DiLorenzo stated that he spoke with Phil DeAngelo regarding the funding and was told that if everything continues we will be at 75% and possibly 80% funding. There was discussion regarding \$40,000 unexpended budget of 2013 could go into the 2014 budget. Commissioner Fraino stated he feels this is an attempt to ramrod this through. Chairman DiLorenzo stated that this is very important to the membership and this is not an attempt at ramrodding this through. Commissioner Erichsen stated he feels this is important however our funding should be in a better position. Chairman DiLorenzo stated that he waited for a full board to be present because this is such an important issue to discuss, however he will withdraw the motion at this time.

Hydrant Testing-

Commissioner Erichsen discussed the testing of the hydrants. It was noted that color coding would be discussed with the Water Department.

2014 Proposed Budget-It was noted that \$1,015,005 would be raised by real property taxes. The percent of operation budget increases is .78% with a rate per thousand of assessed valuation is \$1.171. The Budget hearing will be October 15, 2013 at 7 PM.

Override Resolution

MOTION: Commissioner Bragg moved to override the limit on the amount of real property taxes that may be levied by the Highland Fire District in 2014 pursuant to General Municipal Law Section 3-c and to allow the Highland Fire District to adopt a budget for 2014 that may require a tax levy in excess of the "tax levy limit" as defined by General Municipal Law Section 3-c.

Second: that the Board is the governing body of the fire district with the authority to adopt a budget for calendar year 2014.

Third: the Board notes that the annual budget for calendar year 2014 may be determined by factors not yet established by other bodies with responsibilities under the new law, to be in excess of permissible limits under said Law.

Fourth: the Board finds that the 2014 annual Budget is necessary and proper to fulfill the Board's obligations to provide fire protection within the Highland Fire District.

Fifth: The Board resolves and determines to exceed and override the requirements set by section 3-c of the General Municipal Law for the 2014 calendar year.

Sixth: That this resolution take effect immediately.

This motion was seconded by Commissioner Palladino.

When the Board was polled the result was as follows:

5 Yes 0 No 0 Abstain 0 Absent

Motion was declared duly adopted.

2013Sept10-147

Adoption of 2014 Proposed Budget

MOTION: Commissioner Fraino moved to adopt the 2014 Proposed Budget with a total proposed operating budget of \$1,086,155.00 of which \$1,015,005.00 will be raised by real property taxes yielding an increase of .78% in the operation budget and a rate per thousand of assessed valuation of \$1.0171, seconded by Commissioner Erichsen.

VOTE: 5 Yes 0 No 0 Abstain 0 Absent

Motion was declared duly adopted.

2013Sept10-148

Acceptance of Snow Plow Proposal

MOTION: Commissioner Bragg moved to accept FWP's proposal for snow plowing as submitted, seconded by Commissioner Palladino.

VOTE: 5 Yes 0 No 0 Abstain 0 Absent

Motion was declared duly adopted.

2013Sept10-149

Approval of Water heater Replacement

MOTION: Commissioner Erichsen moved approve the replacement of the Hot water heater at ST 1 as an emergency repair with an AO Smith 120 Water Heater with a cost of \$6934.00 as installed by Jim Taylor Plumbing, seconded by Commissioner Fraino.

VOTE: 5 Yes 0 No 0 Abstain 0 Absent

Motion was declared duly adopted.

2013Sept10-150

23. Additional Public Comment-

Bob Pardy inquired as to what is the District's Apparatus Plan. Bob Pardy also stated that the insurance carrier should have harassment training for free. Commissioner Fraino stated we reviewed that and we felt it did not meet our needs. Bob Pardy stated that there should be paring down and use more mutual aid. He also stated that there was knowledge of the SCBA expiring and it was poor budgeting.

24. Adjournment

MOTION: There being no further business, Commissioner Palladino moved to adjourn at 8:45 PM, seconded by Commissioner Bragg.

VOTE: 5 Yes 0 No 0 Abstain 0 Absent

Motion was declared duly adopted.

2013Sept10-151

Respectfully submitted,
Denise A. Holzberger, District Clerk

APPROVED BOFC MEETING OCTOBER 8, 2013