

**HIGHLAND FIRE DISTRICT**  
**BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**August 28, 2013**  
7:00 PM

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<b>Commissioners:</b> Stephen DiLorenzo, Chairman	(Present)
Benjamin Bragg	(Absent)
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)

**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 firefighter. Chairman DiLorenzo stated that the purpose of this meeting was to discuss and plan the proposed 2014 budget. Chairman DiLorenzo stated that before discussing the budget there were a few items to address.

**Water Heater St.1**

Chairman DiLorenzo stated that Jim Taylor Plumbing was called in on August 27, 2013 to look at the hot water heater here at headquarters as it is leaking. We have received a proposal which includes labor and materials. Least expensive option is tankless, however it is not recommended as our system is designed to have hot water available throughout the building on demand. Commissioner Erichsen stated that he would abstain as he feels that it should be competitively bid. Commissioner Erichsen stated that he agreed that tankless is not a good idea and it is a benefit to have a condenser. Commissioner Fraino feels that we should get prices for the top two options; perhaps from Community. Chairman DiLorenzo stated that this is considered an emergency, but would contact other vendors for quotes.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Fraino moved to approve the purchase of a replacement water heater model AOSMITH BTR365 at a cost not to exceed \$9965.00 or model AO Smith BTH120 at a cost not to exceed \$6934.00, based on the lowest quote obtained and relayed to all Board members, seconded by Commissioner Chris Erichsen.

VOTE: 4 Yes 0 No 0 Abstain 1 Absent

Motion carried. Motion carried. *2013Aug28-134*

**Ceiling Tile Replacement at Headquarters**

It was noted that the ceiling tile replacement would be done on Thursday September 5, 2013. (Ceiling tiles have been delivered.) District Clerk Holzberger would be here all day on Thursday to accommodate the project.

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### **Approval of Bill-**

Chairman DiLorenzo stated that we have one bill to approve tonight as follows:

Stanley Security Systems in the amount of \$89.32 for 12 Keys. Chairman DiLorenzo explained that these keys were ordered and received without the appropriate numbering, they were reordered and received numbered with the wrong sequence of numbers and finally reordered and received correctly numbered. At this time we can authorize payment of the bill.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Lindy Palladino moved to authorize payment of the Stanley Security bill in the amount of \$89.32, seconded by Commissioner John Fraino.

VOTE: 4 Yes 0 No 0 Abstain 1 Absent

Motion carried. *2013Aug28-135*

**Motor Mounts-31-45** Chief Miller stated that quotes for motor mounts are pending.

Commissioner Erichsen stated that we should contact Sutphen in Sullivan County regarding painting of truck.

### **2014 Budget**

Treasurer Passikoff stated that the proposed budget was prepared without an increase; however we should discuss the allowable increase. This year the allowable increase is less than 2% (as per the NYS Comptroller). We can however, exercise our option to increase more if needed by passing a resolution. We also have some leeway as we have not exceeded the allowable increase in the past. There was discussion regarding the \$12,000 we receive from the Town of Lloyd for maintenance of the community room, ambulance bay and police station. Board agreed that we should continue with that. Treasurer Passikoff explained that he factored in a 2% increase for salaries for janitors, clerk and treasurer. Commissioner Fraino explained that salaries would be discussed at a later time.

A review was done for each line item. Technology is at \$4000. Two way radios are at \$7000. Chief Miller explained the possibility of upgrading and purchasing new radios, licenses and frequencies. If we get rid of low-band, it is all or nothing. Two way radios should be an additional \$18,000 for a total of \$20,000. It was noted that 31-30's paint job could be \$30,000. Chief Miller stated that our thermal imaging cameras need to be replaced as well as gear and helmets. New Hose is also needed. Chief Miller explained that technology is changing and our Thermal imaging cameras are old and cannot be repaired any longer; they are the tool we use to see the fire inside a building and have become vital to fighting fires. We currently have a high probability of grabbing a camera and have it not work. Fire Hose now has a shelf life and standards now dictate that hose older than 1987 should no longer be used.

It was noted that email accounts will have a monthly cost and must be factored in. We need to look at the reserve accounts –Building and Apparatus/Equipment. There is \$795,000 in the Apparatus fund now, however with \$225,000 additional funds we will be -\$148,000 in 2021. We need to determine our goal for the Budget as far as increase goes.

All Board members agreed to review the draft and its revisions and meet again on Thursday September 5, 2013 to discuss the budget further.

**ADJOURNMENT-**

**MOTION:** Commissioner Fraino moved to adjourn at 9:50 PM seconded by Commissioner Palladino.

VOTE: 4 YES 0 No 0 Abstain 1 ABSENT

Motion carried. *2013Aug28-136*

Respectfully submitted,  
Denise A. Holzberger, District Clerk

APPROVED