

**HIGHLAND FIRE DISTRICT**  
**BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**September 9, 2014**  
**7 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-** Chairman DiLorenzo called the meeting to order, led the pledge of allegiance to the flag and called 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 12, 2014 regular meeting and September 4, 2014 Special Meeting,

**MOTION:** Commissioner Palladino moved to approve the minutes of the August 12, 2014 regular meeting, seconded by Commissioner John Fraino.

VOTE: 3 Yes 0 No 2 Abstain 0 Absent Commissioners Erichsen and Bragg Abstained  
Motion carried unan. 2014Sept9-130

**MOTION:** Commissioner Erichsen moved to approve the minutes of the September 4, 2014 Special Meeting, seconded by Commissioner Ben Bragg.

VOTE: 5 Yes 0 No 0 Abstain 0 Absent  
Motion carried unan. 2014Sept9-131

**3. September 2014 Bills** against the District-as reviewed by Commissioner Palladino, Fraino and Chief Miller.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Fraino moved to approve payment of the bills as reviewed by himself Commissioner Palladino and Chief Peter Miller on September 8, 2014, seconded by Commissioner Palladino.

VOTE: 5 YES 0 No 0 Abstain 0 Absent  
Motion carried unan. 2014Sept9-132

**4. Correspondence-**District Clerk Holzberger reported the following was received:

Certificate of liability insurance-from Heritagenergy

Fire District Affairs Bulletin rec'd and distributed to Board members

Snow Plowing Bid-received 9/9/14 To be discussed during business session

**Requests for Use of the Community Room-**

**Saturday November 15, 2014** UCVFPA education seminar 8 AM to 3 PM requested by Marty Newman member of the Highland Hose Co. #1.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Ben Bragg moved to approve the request for the use of the community room for an educational seminar for the UCVFPA, seconded by Commissioner Erichsen.

VOTE : 5 YES 0 No 0 Abstain 0 Absent

Motion carried unan. 2014Sept9-133

**Saturday October 25, 2014** Surprise Birthday Party for Member 1 PM to 9 PM requested by Matthew Parker, Highland Hose Co.#1 member.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Ben Bragg moved to approve the request for use of the community room for a Surprise Birthday Party as requested by Matthew Parker, seconded by Commissioner Palladino.

VOTE : 5 YES 0 No 0 Abstain 0 Absent

Motion carried unan. 2014Sept9-134

**5. New Members-**Chairman DiLorenzo reported that there are two new members this evening. Chairman DiLorenzo addressed new members Caitlin Shoureck and Joe Aspera. He encouraged them to ask questions of the officers. He explained that the job is demanding and the training is extensive. We have a low injury record due to our extensive safety and training. He explained that Firefighter 1 is a comprehensive course. Commissioner Palladino stated that if you are injured in the line of duty, Highland Fire District is considered your employer. Commissioner Fraino thanked them for volunteering and stated that this is very rewarding work and wished them good luck. Chairman DiLorenzo stated that it is challenging work .

**MOTION:** Commissioner John Fraino moved to accept Caitlin Shoureck and Joe Aspera as Active Probationary members pending their successful completion of physical exams, seconded by Commissioner Ben Bragg.

VOTE : 5 YES 0 No 0 Abstain 0 Absent

Motion carried unan. 2014Sept9-135

**6. Committee Reports-Buildings and Grounds St.1**

Verizon Micro-Cell- Commissioner Bragg reported that he is scheduled to meet with Verizon (re: micro-cell) on Wednesday at 10 AM and will report back to the Board.

Stucco Resurfacing- meeting with a contractor and will report back to Board.

GenTech-Chief Miller to give information to GenTech for quote for generator maintenance.

Snow Plow Quotes-Chairman DiLorenzo reported that 2 were received for review at Business session. There was discussion regarding obtaining more quotes. Will hold until next month as Commissioner Erichsen wishes to obtain from additional vendors.

Community Room St 1.-Chairman DiLorenzo reported that the shutters were installed.

Sumac Removal St 1.-Chairman DiLorenzo reported that we have requested a proposal for the removal (cutting)of the sumac at Station 1.

**Buildings and Grounds St. 2**

Commissioner Fraino stated that a Bobcat was used to smooth out the ground at St 2. Trees were cut and stumps removed. The door needs some adjusting; Chairman DiLorenzo to contact a vendor.

Dry Hydrant St 2-Chief Miller noted that it may need repair since Hurricane Irene.

Expansion of Garage-Commissioner Erichsen stated that a proposal is being drawn up for the expansion of the garage. We are looking at blending it into the old structure and it will be on a slab.

Lighting upgrade-it was reported that the lights are done at St.2. LED's are working well. St. 1 will be done once the needed parts are in.

Other matters-Chairman DiLorenzo reported that the Town of Lloyd is in the process of granting an easement to the Ottaviano property. Commissioner Bragg to meet with Supervisor Paul Hansut regarding a driveway to be constructed. We have been maintaining the easement and that easement should be reflected in the map. Commissioner Bragg will review the survey maps.

Painting-George Ottaviano will be coming in to begin in a couple of weeks.

**7. Apparatus Repair**- Chief Miller reported the following:  
31-10 –called Nichols regarding the fuel gauge

**8. Insurance/Workers Compensation**-Chairman Dilorenzo reported that our agent, Linda Flanagan has requested our loss runs to obtain a quote for workers compensation insurance. Board agreed to supply her with that information.

**9. Physical Fitness Program**-Next Report will be at October 2014 meeting.

**10. Capital Improvement**-nothing at this time

**11. New Apparatus**-nothing to report

**12. Ulster County Fire District Association**-next meeting September 18, 2014 at Wallkill

**13. Service Awards**-August 2014 activity posted September 5, 2014

Direct Deposit of checks- Chairman DiLorenzo stated that we are in the process of arranging for direct deposit of members checks should they so choose.

LOSAP Upgrade- referendum to take place at our December Election.

**14. Treasurer's Report**-Treasurer Passikoff reviewed the August 2014 financial report. It was noted that all service to apparatus must be done and invoiced by the December 2014 meeting.

MOTION: Commissioner Palladino moved to accept the August 2014 financial report as submitted by the Treasurer, seconded by Commissioner Fraino.

VOTE: 5 YES 0 No 0 Abstain 0 Absent

Motion carried unan. 2014Sept9-136

**15. Annual Inspection Dinner**-September 12, 2014 at The Would. Approximately 40 people will attend.

**16. Public Comment**-Chairman Dilorenzo asked if there were any comments from the floor.

Mr. Bob Parady stated that he had tracked commissioners' attendance and noted that one commissioner has a 50 % attendance record and one commissioner is at 68%. He stated that he feels that a commitment is made when elected to the position. There was discussion with multiple individuals speaking at the same time. Chairman Dilorenzo stated that the Board has no position on Board

members' attendance and no action would be taken. Commissioner Erichsen thanked Mr. Pardy for bringing (the attendance issue) to our attention.

**17. Chief's Report**-Chief Miller reported the following:

31-A- 9/12-9/14 and 9/26-9/28 31-A will be going to Montour Falls for training. (Officer leadership)

**MOTION:** Commissioner Erichsen moved to authorize car 31-A to the Fire Academy at Montour Falls driven by Assistant Chief Jim Anzalone for the purpose of Officer Leadership Training, seconded by Commissioner John Fraino.

VOTE: 5 YES 0 No 0 Abstain 0 Absent

Motion carried unan. 2014Sept9-137

School Bus Evacuation Drills-September 10, 2014 31-C will be overseeing.

9/11 Ceremony-6 pm Ceremony here at headquarters. Chief Miller stated all are encouraged to attend in Class A's. Chief Miller thanked Jim Balint for coordinating the event.

Blue Point Road-Zoning Hearing to be held on September 17, 2014. Commissioner Fraino inquired as to what our input would be. Chief Miller explained that we may comment on turning radius, road width etc.. The hearing will be at 7 pm. The project consists of 437 acres.

Fireman's Home BBQ-September 14, 2014. Chief Miller stated that we need approval for 31-80 and 31-c to go. Chairman DiLorenzo stated that we are meeting at St 2 at 8 AM. Commissioner Fraino stated that he may go along with Chairman Dilorenzo.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Fraino moved to authorize Car 31-C and 31-80 to the Fireman's BBQ on September 14m 2014, seconded by Commissioner Erichsen.

VOTE: 5 YES 0 No 0 Abstain 0 Absent

Motion carried unan. 2014Sept9-138

Auto Extrication- 9/13, 9/16 and 9/23 crews of 8-10 members would be participating each time.

Hudson Valley Rehab-elevator rescue. Chief Miller reported that we responded and found that this is an ongoing problem. We locked it out and the Town of Lloyd building department is aware of this issue.

Town of Lloyd Police Department-Chief Miller reported that they will be conducting a live action training session and will be using our smart dummy.

UCVF- September 16, 2014 at Big Indian. Requesting 31-80 to be used.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Ben Bragg moved to authorize 31-80 to go to Big Indian, seconded by Commissioner Palladino.

VOTE: 5 YES 0 No 0 Abstain 0 Absent

Motion carried unan. 2014Sept9-139

200 Club- October 5, 2014

Open House-Wed. October 8, 2014 6pm

NYS Contracts-Chief Miller reported that there has been no action by NYS as yet (regarding vehicle contracts)

SCBA Grant- still alive for us.

Chief Miller requested an executive session for personnel matters.

CSX-no response received

### **18. Old Business-**

Cell Phone Policy- Chairman DiLorenzo and Commissioner Chris Erichsen to work on.

VPN-pending a part. District Clerk to follow-up.

Wood-Commissioner Erichsen reported that he and Commissioner Fraino cut up some wood for the Hose Company to use for the Christmas Tree sales.

Direct Deposit for LOSAP checks-Chairman DiLorenzo reported that we are pursuing the ability to provide direct deposit of LOSAP checks for our members.

### **19. New Business-**

**NYSOFPC**-Chief Miller reported that NYSOFPC is not standing with NFPA as far as the 10 year limit for use of gear. Outdated gear will be ok for use during training only. This stand is a result of Fire Departments expressing the burden of buying new gear.

1916 Photo- Chairman DiLorenzo stated that he would like to get a copy of the re-enactment photo for the Board room.

2015 Budget- It was noted that the biggest increase in the budget was for the LOSAP upgrade (\$30,000) The total overall increase is 4 % .

The Budget timeline is as follows:

10/1/2014 Proposed budget must be to the Town of Lloyd.

10/21/14 Budget hearing

November 1, 2014 finalized budget must be submitted to the Town.

We can adopt the proposed budget tonight.

### Override Resolution

**MOTION:** Commissioner Palladino moved the following resolution, seconded by Commissioner Chris Erichsen.

VOTE: 5 Yes 0 No 0 Abstain 0 Absent

Motion carried unan. 2014Sept9-140 See attached resolution

### Purchase of Podium

Chief Miller stated that at the recent Highland Hose Company meeting the purchase of a podium was discussed . The Hose Company is requesting that the District pay half the cost of the podium. Total cost would be approximately \$1134.00. Chairman DiLorenzo stated that 1/3 of the District's portion could be charged against the community room expenses.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Bragg moved to authorize the purchase of the podium with the district picking up half the cost, seconded by Commissioner Palladino.

VOTE: 5 Yes 0 No 0 Abstain 0 Absent

Motion carried unan. 2014Sept9-141

**20. EXECUTIVE SESSION-**

**MOTION:** Commissioner Fraino moved to go to executive session at 8:20 PM to discuss personnel issues relating to salaries, seconded by Commissioner Palladino.

VOTE: 5 Yes 0 No 0 Abstain 0 Absent

Motion carried unan. 2014Sept9-142 *District Clerk and Treasurer were excused.*

Return to regular session

**MOTION:** Commissioner Fraino moved to return to the regular session of business at 9:02 pm, seconded by Commissioner Fraino.

VOTE: 5 Yes 0 No 0 Abstain 0 Absent

Motion carried unan. 2014Sept9-143

Adoption of 2015 Proposed Budget

**MOTION:** Commissioner Palladino moved to adopt the 2015 Proposed Budget with a total operating budget of \$1,130,948 of which \$1,057,360 will be raised by real property taxes, seconded by Commissioner Chris Erichsen.

VOTE: 5 Yes 0 No 0 Abstain 0 Absent

Motion carried unan. 2014Sept9-144

Commissioner Erichsen noted that Treasurer Passikoff would make every effort to have a representative from his firm in attendance at a Board meeting in his absence.

**21. Adjournment-**

**MOTION:** There being no further business, Commissioner Fraino moved to adjourn at 9:05 pm, seconded by Commissioner Ben Bragg.

VOTE: 5 Yes 0 No 0 Abstain 0 Absent

Motion carried unan. 2014Sept9-145

Respectfully submitted,  
Denise A. Holzberger, District Clerk

Approved BOFC mtg 10/14/14