

MARCH 10TH, 2022

REGULAR MEETING
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
Held at 40 Mill Road
Eastchester, NY 10709

PRESENT: Chairman Commr. Paul Carlo
Commr. Thomas Roche
Commr. Paul Ranellone
Commr. Anthony Lore

ABSENT: Commr. Brian Keating

IN ATTENDANCE:

Chief Brian Tween
Treasurer Jamie Hedstrom
Secretary Marissa Isang Smith
Legal Counsel Cheryl Sacco

MOTION by Commr. Carlo seconded by Commr. Ranellone and unan. carried to open the meeting to the public, followed by a salute to the flag.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Jamie Hedstrom reported the financials through February 28, 2022, presented a net budget surplus of approximately 160,000.00 She also reported the District continues to use the capital reserve fund to fund the work being conducted at Station 4, providing a breakdown summary of the capital reserve spending for this project in her report. Treasurer Hedstrom also reported that the board received two quotes for upcoming P&C renewal, one from McNeil and one from NYMIR. She also reported the year-end audit continues, working to compile information to provide the auditors BST and Company, for the year-end audit. Treasurer Hedstrom reported there would be a full tax levy from the Town, in the amount of \$18,049,409.70 in early May.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

RESOLUTION NO. 43, 2022

MOTION by Commr. Carlo seconded by Commr. Lore to pay the bills and vouchers as presented. The Board has been supplied with one set of bills and one credit card bill for Board approval. Chief Tween has reviewed all prior to the meeting, except certiorari claims and those specifically marked as reviewed by the Treasurer. The Treasurer has requested the Board approve the following:

Warrant 1- 3/10/22- \$54,767.68
Credit Card - 3/18/22- \$2,462.30
Total \$57,229.98

The Board was polled as follows:

Commr. Lore	-	Aye
Commr. Ranellone	-	Aye
Commr. Roche	-	Abstain
Commr. Carlo	-	Aye

MOTION CARRIED *****

CHIEFS REPORT

Chief Brian Tween reported

Alarm activity: 280

Fire: 1

EMS/Rescue: 156

Mutual Aid Given: 4 (FDMV-2, NRRFD-1, Pelham FD-1)

Mutual Aid Received: None that

Vehicle maintenance continues through the use of outside vendors. Tim Dalton's maintenance reports were mailed to the Board on March 10th. Fire Prevention and Code Enforcement activities continue with numerous plan reviews and inspections and their report was emailed to the Board on March 3rd.

Currently, three members are out on long-term absence. The transfer Candidate Kyle Steele has completed his orientation training and was assigned to Group 4 on March 6th. I would like to welcome Kyle to the Eastchester FD. The next Career Fire Academy is scheduled to begin on Tuesday, March 15th. The EFD has been allotted spots for seven candidates. We are in the process of onboarding the candidates. As requested by email, the Chief asked the Board to allow Lieutenant Domenick DiRienzo to be detailed to the Spring 2022 Fire Academy class as an instructor.

As requested by email, the Chief asked the Board to correct the number of days to extend Captain Tomasini’s probation to 65 days, now to end his probationary period on May 7, 2022.

SECRETARY REPORT

Secretary Marissa “Isang” Smith reported that a website report had been sent to the Board. She shared that design concepts had been discussed with CivicPlus, and several language proposals had been sent to the eBoard in the previous weeks for consideration. Secretary Isang reported on the social media activity for the District. Commr. Roche discussed the amended social media policy, adding the Fire District Secretary as one with authority for social media content approval.

RESOLUTION NO. 44, 2022

MOTION by Commr. Roche seconded by Commr. Ranellone to adopt the amended social media policy.

The Board was polled as follows:

- Commr. Lore - Aye
- Commr. Ranellone - Aye
- Commr. Roche - Aye
- Commr. Carlo - Aye

MOTION CARRIED *****

Secretary Isang asked the Board to consider firefighter prep classes as a way to recruit potential candidates to take the firefighter exam in June of 2023. Commr. Roche suggested reaching out to the school districts and superintendents with a letter to change the curriculum to allow for civil service exam prep.

RESOLUTION NO. 45, 2022

MOTION by Commr. Roche seconded by Commr. Carlo to authorize legal counsel to compose a letter, signed by the chair, introducing the fire commissioners to the superintendents of the school within the district, and to encourage career interaction for potential future firefighters at Eastchester Fire District.

The Board was polled as follows:

- Commr. Lore - Aye
- Commr. Ranellone - Aye
- Commr. Roche - Aye

Commr. Carlo - Aye

MOTION CARRIED *****

RESOLUTION NO. 46, 2022

MOTION by Commr. Carlo seconded by Commr. Roche to amend resolution number 35-2022 which authorized Fire Chief Tween or his designee to execute an MOU and FF Badge #_139_: but hereby moves to authorize that this MOU properly reflects the correct days as 65 and not 71 days.

The Board was polled as follows:

Commr. Lore - Aye
Commr. Ranellone - Aye
Commr. Roche - Aye
Commr. Carlo - Aye

MOTION CARRIED *****

RESOLUTION NO. 47, 2022

MOTION by Commr. Carlo seconded by Commr. Ranellone to authorize that FF candidate #216 may end his Leave of Absence LOA effective on March 12, 2022, and on such date, he is restored to paid status and directs that he attend Academy in March.

The Board was polled as follows:

Commr. Lore - Aye
Commr. Ranellone - Aye
Commr. Roche - Abstain
Commr. Carlo - Aye

MOTION CARRIED *****

Commr. Roche expressed disagreement with Treasurer Jamie Hedstrom's actions regarding the insurance topic. Commr. Carlo disagreed with Commr. Roche, citing Treasurer Hedstrom, is not an insurance broker. Treasurer Jamie Hedstrom shared her position on why the insurance matter was handled as it was.

RESOLUTION NO. 48, 2022

MOTION by Commr. Carlo seconded by Commr. Ranellone to authorize and execute the paperwork necessary to have McNeil and Company

act as the Broker for EFD for P&C insurance for the term of 4/1/22 to 4/1/23, in the amount of \$117,537.89

The Board was polled as follows:

- Commr. Lore - Aye
- Commr. Ranellone - Aye
- Commr. Roche - Aye
- Commr. Carlo - Aye

MOTION CARRIED *****

Commr. Carlo shared the letter from Mayor Marvin:

To the Residents of the Village of Bronxville,
 On behalf of myself and my fellow Trustees, I wish to thank you for your generosity in allowing us to hold the Board of Fire Commissioners meetings at Village Hall for well over a decade at no charge and as a public service to our entire town. You have been most gracious in allowing us to host this very important Board and we thank you for your commitment to inter-municipal cooperation and partnership.
 With gratitude,
 Mary Marvin

Commr. Roche commented on the rules and regulations from the 1935 book for the number of monthly meetings the Board is required to have. Chief Tween mentioned the 1965 book had a revised requirement. Commr. Roche commented on the rules and regulations of the Eastchester Fire Department and asked Union President Steven Ranellone (in the audience) what rules and regulations they followed. Chief Tween shared that he believed the rules and regulations were updated but he does not have them in front of him. Commr. Roche asked Commr. Lore for his input for what rule book he followed. Commr. Lore and Commr. Ranellone discussed how past board meetings were held. Legal Counsel Cheryl Sacco asked to look at past practices and policies for continued discussion. Commr. Lore commented that the schedule is very appropriate since years ago, meetings took place when everyone felt it was comfortable for them.

RESOLUTION NO. 49, 2022

MOTION by Commr. Ranellone seconded by Commr. Lore to adopt the Revised 2022 EBOFC Meeting Schedule, as follows:

- Thursday, March 10th at 7:00 PM
- Thursday, April 14th at 7:00 PM
- Thursday, May 12th at 7:00 PM
- Thursday, June 16th at 7:00 PM
- Thursday, July 14th at 7:00 PM
- Thursday, August 11th at 7:00 PM
- Tuesday, September 27th at 7:00 PM
- Tuesday, October 18th at 7:00 PM
- Thursday, November 10th at 7:00 PM
- Thursday, December 22nd, at 7:00 PM

The Board was polled as follows:

Commr. Lore	-	Aye
Commr. Ranellone	-	Aye
Commr. Roche	-	Aye
Commr. Carlo	-	Aye

MOTION CARRIED *****

RESOLUTION NO. 50, 2022

MOTION by Commr. Roche seconded by Commr. Ranellone to create a monthly stipend of \$1,200 monthly stipend for continuous work on grants as assigned by the Fire District Board for the Fire District Secretary starting on March 11th, 2022:

The Board was polled as follows:

Commr. Lore	-	Aye
Commr. Ranellone	-	Aye
Commr. Roche	-	Aye
Commr. Carlo	-	No

MOTION CARRIED *****

Discussion between Commissioners regarding the Assistant Chief position after a question by Commr. Roche for the process of civil service exams and who was qualified to be Assistant Chief. Commr. Roche asked for details from Chief Tween on who was detailed to go as an instructor to Fire Academy. Treasurer Hedstrom detailed the requirements through Civil Service and the timeline. Union President Steve Ranellone asked the Commissioners to not mention preferred candidates by name.

RESOLUTION NO. 51, 2022

MOTION by Commr. Carlo seconded by Commr. Ranellone to authorize Chief Tween to detail Lieutenant DiRienzo to the Spring Fire Academy as an instructor:

The Board was polled as follows:

- Commr. Lore - Aye
- Commr. Ranellone - Aye
- Commr. Roche - Aye
- Commr. Carlo - Aye

MOTION CARRIED *****

Discussion between Commissioners regarding the Foil request process. Commr. Roche proposed the idea to make information available to the public who were submitting FOILs. Legal Counsel recommended this topic be discussed in an executive session and would want to review the information. Commr. Roche moved to delay the discussion of the FOIL requests being posted on the EFD website. Commr. Lore expressed frustration regarding recent FOIL requests by the same individual since 2014. Commr. Roche advised Commr. Lore that the District could not refuse to respond to FOILs. Legal Counsel Cheryl Sacco discussed the FOIL procedure concerning the specific FOIL request and advised that such records did not exist in the District, and therefore the District does not have an obligation to ask another entity for the records under FOIL. Legal Counsel also shared that they spoke with the Committee on Open Government and confirmed the District has no obligation to produce records that are not in the possession of the District. Commr. Lore continued expressing frustration regarding the specific FOIL request from the individual. Commr. Roche shared that he approved of this approach.

A discussion was initiated between Commissioners concerning the 1935 Rules and Regulations. Commr. Roche proposed to rewrite the rules and regulations for career firefighters. Commr. Roche was concerned about liability for the Board since the rules and regulations were not being enforced, and for the Chief as well. Commr. Carlo disagreed with Commr. Roche regarding the book, stating it was antiquated, and asking him to clarify what he was saying regarding the past practice for 60 to 70 years. Legal Counsel Sacco recommended not to discuss the topic in a public

session but recommended a committee. Commr. Carlo agreed that there was a need to update the policies. Legal Counsel Sacco recommended consolidating policies to review and discuss. Commr. Lore shared that this would not be a short-term process. Union President Steven Ranellone shared parameters that needed to be established to understand what was going to be discussed and how it affects the contract. Discussion continued on how to start the process between the union and the district.

RESOLUTION NO. 52, 2022

MOTION by Commr. Roche seconded by Commr. Ranellone established a committee to update the rules and regulations of the 1935 book.

The Board was polled as follows:

Commr. Lore	-	No
Commr. Ranellone	-	Aye
Commr. Roche	-	Aye
Commr. Carlo	-	No

MOTION FAILED*****

Commr. Roche asked Legal Counsel Sacco how Board member protects themselves from liability going forward. Legal Counsel Sacco believed Commr. Roche attempted to clarify the situation but that he could not act without a majority of the Board. Commr. Roche asked Legal Counsel Sacco if the Chief could enforce the rules and regulations as written. Legal Counsel Sacco advised discussing this topic further in the executive session. Chief Tween asked if Commr. Lore understood the purpose of the committee. Commr. Lore advised he would not revote on it regardless.

A discussion was initiated regarding the smoke detector campaign. Commr. Ranellone shared how the District was beginning a smoke detector campaign and that the department would like to purchase detectors and provide them to residents. Chief Tween clarified the process for the smoke detector campaign and how there were ongoing conversations around education rather than installing them. Secretary Isang clarified that they still had to work on the campaign details and would get back to the Board with a proposal. Continued discussion between Commissioners and the Chief regarding the smoke detector campaign process.

A discussion was initiated regarding Station 3. Commr. Carlo discussed the architectural/engineering services proposal for Station 3. Commr. Roche shared how UES had put together a package and that nothing has been done with it, and expressed concerns about engaging another firm for a bid. Commr. Roche asked that the bid goes out and that two firehouses cannot be out of service. Commr. Ranellone expressed interest in putting both out for bid. Chief Tween anticipated the project wouldn't even start within the year but wanted the preliminary work done, with an engineer coming in for an evaluation.

A discussion was initiated regarding Station 4. Commr. Carlo shared the findings of the geotechnical engineer being similar to the UES findings. Commr. Roche disagreed with the process and believed the source of the water issue needed to be found. Commr. Carlo offered to find out more information from Joe Paterno. Chief Tween shared he was there the day the hydraulic engineer arrived at Station 4, how the engineer doesn't have a problem with the water level, and that the District accepts that as the acceptable level, and to develop a sub pump system. Discussion continued between the Commissioners and the Chief on the process of resolving the water issue at Station 4.

RESOLUTION NO. 53, 2022

MOTION by Commr. Carlo seconded by Commr. Roche to authorize the Chief to execute an agreement with Universal Engineering Services for professional services related to a water/drainage system at the Chester Heights Station, in an amount not to exceed \$9,500; such agreement shall be reviewed by legal counsel.

The Board was polled as follows:

- Commr. Lore - Aye
- Commr. Ranellone - Aye
- Commr. Roche - Aye
- Commr. Carlo - Aye

MOTION CARRIED*****

LOCAL 916

Union President Steven Ranellone thanked the Commissioners for filling all the vacant firefighter positions and for the transfer from Mount Vernon and hoped that when all the

firefighters come back in July/August, it affects the overtime budget.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Public Member Michael Parisi commented on the Station 4 situation, expressing frustration by the actions of the Board, and asking they hire an engineer for the District. Mr. Parisi continued criticism of the handling of Station 4, the length of time it is taking to renovate, the accessibility of the firehouse, the lack of safety around the firehouses due to poor lighting and lack of signage, and the approach they took in determining the source of the water. Commr. Roche disagreed with the location of the firehouse, and how they approached the handling of Station 4. Commr. Ranellone shared how he would have preferred the building be designed differently. Mr. Parisi continued his criticism of the Boards decision to relocate the firefighters into a schoolhouse. Legal Counsel shared how the engineering firm did an analysis of the accessibility issue in response to Commr. Roche's questions. Commr. Lore reminded Mike that he would never close a firehouse in the town. Commr. Carlo advised Mr. Parisi that the Board will do the best they can. Mr. Parisi said Joe Paterno should have been at the meeting. Commr. Roche advised that he just invited Mr. Paterno. Commr. Roche asked Chief Tween about the lighting situation. Chief Tween advised that the electricity is not working right now due to lines being cut, but that for security there is a safety fence. Chief Tween advised that they would look into signage indicating the firehouse is closed.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commr. Lore shared about the incident of a Carmel Fire, and how there was an issue with no fire hydrants being near there. Commr. Lore was concerned about how he drove around the town the day before and saw recyclables being piled against fire hydrants in five different locations. Commr. Lore asked residents not to block fire hydrants as that could delay emergency response.

Secretary Isang shared the social media accounts for the Fire District:

Instagram: @eastchesterfiredistrict

Facebook: Eastchester Fire District

Twitter: EastchesterFD

Commr. Roche asked to end the meeting with a moment of silence for the wars occurring in the world.

Commr. Carlo reminded the public that the Eastchester St. Patrick's parade was occurring on March 13th.

A moment of silence took place.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Commr. Ranellone seconded by Commr. Roche and unan. carried that this meeting adjourned.

No Executive Session was held after the adjournment of the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Marissa "Isang" Smith
SECRETARY TO THE BOARD OF
FIRE COMMISSIONERS