



MINUTES
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
Regular Meeting – December 4, 2025

ATTENDEES: Chairman Marc Komorsky
Commissioner Barry Ward
Commissioner Vincent Tierney
Deputy Chief Bryan Zittel
Secretary Bria Le (*absent*)
Attorney Michael Hekle (*via Teams*)

Commissioner Anthony Pignataro
Commissioner Robert Taft (*absent*)
Chief Anthony Champion
Deputy Chief Scott Merritt (*absent*)
Bookkeeper Jennifer Kaiser
Treasurer Mark Pozniak (*absent*)

At 6:01 PM, Chairman Komorsky called the Board of Fire Commissioners Regular Meeting to order for Thursday, December 4th, 2025, (rescheduled from 12/2/25) and led the Pledge of Allegiance. He thanked everyone for coming out.

MINUTES: - 11/25/25 Regular Meeting minutes

Upon a MOTION made by Commissioner Pignataro, and SECONDED by Commissioner Ward, the Board RESOLVED to approve the 11/25/25 Regular Meeting minutes. Pignataro – Aye, Tierney– Aye, Ward – Aye, Chairman Komorsky – Aye. **Motion Carried.**

CORRESPONDENCE:

- None.

ROOM USE REQUEST:

- Station 3 on 1/7/25 for Red Cross Blood Drive from 11AM – 6 PM

Upon a MOTION made by Commissioner Ward and SECONDED by Commissioner Pignataro, the Board RESOLVED to approve the room request. Pignataro – Aye, Tierney– Aye, Ward – Aye, Chairman Komorsky – Aye. **Motion Carried.**

- **Station 3 on 12/11/25 for Anthony Champion from 9 AM – 1 PM**

Upon a MOTION made by Commissioner Pignataro and SECONDED by Commissioner Tierney, the Board resolved to approve the request. Pignataro – Aye, Tierney– Aye, Ward – Aye, Chairman Komorsky – Aye. **Motion Carried.**

OLD BUSINESS/UNRESOLVED ITEMS:

- Station 1 Building Update – Commissioner Ward that there was no new news and that they were waiting on prices from the appropriate contractors for the change requests.
- Station 2 Septic – Commissioner Tierney said that they have made progress and that they have the final drawings and bid specs. He said the bump in the road was the (dug up) material needed to be shipped offsite and that costs a lot of money. He said that MJ Engineering rechecked with the Board of Health and got approval to put the material onsite and use it as fill. Brief discussion followed about keeping the material onsite. Commissioner Ward said that they agreed to change the spec and asked if there was a new engineering cost with that change. Commissioner Tierney said there wasn't additional cost associated with this change but they did resolve a discrepancy on the bill.

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Discussion followed regarding whether they had already approved the additional \$3500 engineering fee for initial changes to the specifications and the approval procedures. Bookkeeper Kaiser showed the change documents and Commissioner Ward read an excerpt from the 10/28/25 minutes where the cost was approved and noted that he wasn't there so that is why he didn't remember it. He said that the work is covered and Chairman Komorsky agreed that it was resolved. Commissioner Tierney said that they would go out to re-bids in December with new bids coming in on the 16th of January.

- Station 2 Brick Pointing – Commissioner Tierney said they have removed the parapet and the bricks have been taken down. He said he tried to contact the roofer but hasn't gotten a quote back yet. Commissioner Ward said he would reach out to the roofer because they don't want to mess with the warranty by getting a different roofer to do work on the area. Commissioner Tierney said there was a tarp on it now to keep water out. He said they were waiting on the weather for the mason to come back and peel the brick off to take a look. He said it would take some planning because they will need to move the tanker out of the bay and they don't know how long scaffolding will need to be up in that area.
- Station 3 Asbestos Remediation – Commissioner Tierney said that it has been scheduled and the vendor will start December 11th. Brief discussion followed in regards to sealing the area and possibly pushing back the start by a day to avoid a scheduled event.
- Staffing Community Events – Chief Champion reported that they participated in the Town's Festival of Lights and it was well received. He said the parade had a good turnout and it was a successful event. Chief Champion said he believed the Santa Run was coming up on December 18th and it was being handled by former Asst. Chief Michael Patrimonio at Company 3. Chairman Komorsky noted that if anyone wanted to participate to contract Michael Patrimonio as they were always looking for more people to help.
- Lexipol Policy Updates – Chief Champion stated that it was still moving forward and it was a work in progress.
- Operational Software Overview - Chief Champion said that they were looking to move to NERIS from NIFRS in the reporting system. He said they have closed out all of the pending calls in ESO and First Due barring the last week and a half. He said the process will move forward so they can make the transition before the new year. Chairman Komorsky, on behalf of the Board, thanked the chief and all of the officers on their input.
- Diesel Tank Accessories – Chief Champion reported that the mafia blocks were position to ensure safety and keeping vehicles out of the area of the diesel tank and away from the generator.
- Grant Update – Chief Champion stated that he will be submitting for SAFER before the end of the week so they can continue to get reimbursed. Chairman Komorsky asked if they have gotten word of any new grants. Chief Champion said he didn't think they would get anything before the end of the year.
- Grant Writing Update – Deputy Chief Zittel said he spoke to Dan Nichols who said don't expect anything from FEMA until the beginning of next year. DC Zittel said that Mr. Nichols asked if the

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District would like to retain him for the SCBA grant and would send the Deputy Chief his agreement.

- Building Repairs/Repair Requests – Chief Champion said the radio antennas would be mounted back onto Station 2 tomorrow. Commissioner Ward asked about the cost and Chief Champion said it would be about \$2000. Next Chief Champion reported there were developing ice issues with snow melt off of the roof of the trailer at Station 1. He wanted to confirm that the trailer company was ok with gutters being installed on their trailer or if they had an alternate option. Commissioner Tierney said he asked the trailer company and they said that gutters could be installed. Chairman Komorsky asked if they could get something in writing and Commissioner Tierney said he would contact them again to get approval in writing. Chief Champion said he would reach out to the company they used recently for gutters. Brief discussion followed regarding to use for clearing the steps for the trailer.
- Budget Review– Commissioner Ward said they got the medical costs increases from the treasurer, about 8.9%, and he updated each individual including any plan adjustments and said the net results was about \$215,000 more than they planned in the budget. He said to offset it, he proposed a change in the Land & Building Reserve contribution to \$281,000, a roughly \$234,000 reduction. Commissioner Ward reviewed some other areas in the reserve budget projections that might be adjusted. He said also these numbers assumed four additional people but they wouldn't start on January 1, there would be potentially two in the spring and two in the fall so that could free up some additional funds but they won't know until the later part of 2026 and then they will be in a better position to make determinations. Further discussion followed regarding the timeframe for reserve projects and associated funds.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Review of Organizational Meeting Items – Commissioner Pignataro asked criteria for which positions are listed in the designations and which ones are not, like the bookkeeper or the mechanic. Commissioner Ward said that, if he remembers correctly, they are in there because they are appointed positions. Further discussion held about appointed positions versus employees and if the policies are in the manual do they need to be approved annually.

Commissioner Pignataro said that the Board needs to hold the Organizational Meeting within the first 15 days of the calendar year. He said that if they stick to the 2nd and 4th Tuesday as they have in the past then the first meeting would be on Tuesday, January 13th. Everyone said they were fine with that.

Chief Champion asked about a 2nd meeting for December and said that the 18th had been mentioned. Brief discussion held regarding who would be able to attend on 12/18. Chairman Komorsky said they would not have a meeting on 12/23 and hold it on Thursday, 12/18/25, instead.

REPORTS: (by officers present)

- **Treasurer Pozniak** – no report.

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○ Chief Anthony Champion –

- Status Update - Chief Champion reminded everyone that there was a department meeting on December 16th at 6:30 PM at Station 2. He said that he and Deputy Chief Zittel have been working on Chief 360. He said that Jeff Lenkowski has helped set up a wallboard with it and they are making a few final tweaks then will be sending out an email to the membership to get everyone signed up for notifications when calls come in. Chief Champion said that Dutchess County Civil Service has posted the DC Fire and DC EMS tests for next year and the postings have been shared with the staff that need them.
- Training - Chief Champion said that they just received a notice that there is an all-day seminar in New Hackensack for the author of Step Up and Lead, which is one of the books nearly all of the firefighters on staff have read in the past.
- Out of County Training - Chief Champion said that Firefighter/Paramedic Jacob Rand has requested to attend an out of county ice rescue class in Montour that is occurring February 28th. Chief Champion is requesting approval for room and board plus travel for the class.
Upon a MOTION made by Commissioner Pignataro, and SECONDED by Chairman Kormorsky, the Board RESOLVED to approve the ice water class in Montour on February 28th for Firefighter/Paramedic Jacob Rand. Pignataro – Aye, Tierney – Aye, Ward – Aye, Chairman Komorsky – Aye. **Motion Carried.**

Chief Champion said that at the last meeting they discussed and approved the chief's request to be able to send career members out of county to Westchester without constantly bringing it up to the Board. He said that they did some research and there is a component tied to volunteers going out of county (for training) but there is not a component tied to career staff traveling out of county. Chief Champion said that, as per the Board's request, if there is a cost associated with a class, beyond that of shift coverage, he will bring it to the Board and he will still notify the Board of the trainings going on. Chairman Komorsky clarified that they are doing this because the classes fill up very quickly so they don't have to worry about taking too much time and losing the seats. Commissioner Ward said the only other thing to check was to make sure there wasn't an insurance requirement and Chief Champion said they hadn't heard back from the insurance company on that yet.

- Equipment - Chief Champion reported that they are still down one engine as it is still down at the repair facility. Chairman Komorsky asked if he had any idea when it would be coming back and Chief Champion said he hadn't had a chance to get an update but he hoped it would be before Christmas.
Chief Champion said that Kyle (McAllister) was doing quite well and taking on all of the tasks from Captain DeMilto and is executing them efficiently and effectively.
Chief Champion said he was looking to run a trial program with radio coverage. He said they have engaged with a radio company that has offered to build a repeater and put it on the Illinois tower (in Highland) and he wants to test it to see if it covers the pockets where the District doesn't have radio communications. Chairman Komorsky said that they have had these conversations about the radio towers and noted that they have free use of the tower by the Town's highway superintendent's garage. Commissioner Ward said that when they had the studies done, it didn't cover large parts of LaGrange. Chief Champion said he

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was being told, and noted that they will try it out for about two weeks or so, that the Illinois repeater may be sufficient enough to cover all of LaGrange and if that is the case they can switch to that tower. Chairman Komorsky said that over by Sonny's they have mini antennas on the telephone poles that they could look into. Chief Champion said they would bring it up in their discussions and right now they were just looking into things and will bring it back to the Board once they more information.

- **Deputy Chief of Fire** – Deputy Chief Zittel said his report was done but he has one item for Executive Session.
- **Deputy Chief of EMS** – Chief Champion said he had a report from Deputy Chief Merritt who was absent. He said that DC Merritt apologized but his daughter had an orchestra recital at her school.
 - Updates - Chief Champion reported that recertification packets have been completed for five firefighter/paramedics signed by the medical director and will be submitted to the state and the region on Monday. He said that after this group the next ones to be submitted will be in the March/April timeframe.
Chief Champion said that they have pulled all of the Toughbooks from service due to the Windows update and said they are transitioning to the Surface Pro computers supplied by ProClaim. He said they will have the EMS Committee work on some solutions to address the complaints about the floppiness of the keyboards and the screens.
 - Training - Chief Champion reported that Firefighter/Paramedic Tyler Edgar, Fire Captain Fred Wern, and Deputy Chief Merritt will be meeting with Dutchess Community College next week on hosting AHA classes so CPR, ACLS, and PALS can be taught using our instructors under their training center license. He said this copies what the District currently does with Arlington (Fire District) but affords the District more control over the training.
Chief Champion said that DC Merritt is currently taking the Difficult Airway course at the Center for Disaster Medicine in Westchester with three other paramedics and reports that the class is going splendidly thus far. He said that Firefighter/Paramedics Tyler Edgar and Thomas Cummings will be doing a RIT, FAST, and CPR with the groups over the next week and DC Merritt is putting together a hypothermia training for next month to coincide with ice rescue drills.
Chief Champion said that the CME – Med Control that was scheduled for this past Tuesday was pushed back due to the storm to 12/16 at 9 AM.
 - Controlled Substances – Chief Champion said that Deputy Chief Merritt is currently working with Captain Wern to prepare for the purchasing of controlled substances. He said they are working on the software piece now and is waiting for a state inspection of the District's storage and on approval of the District's Controlled Substance Plan.
 - Grant – Chief Champion said that DC Merritt is just waiting on the contract from the County for the grant funded Lucas device. He said they will be approved to purchase the device once the grant period starts on December 15th, then the District will need to make

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the purchase and be reimbursed by the County in exchange for keeping the County decals on the cars for an additional two years from the date of installation.

Chairman Komorsky reported that he, Chief Champion, and Attorney Ian Landman (from Jackson Lewis) were on a conference call with and Alex Betke and his partner Ken from Brown Weinraub regarding the Town Centre issues and the issues related to the growth with the town. He said that it was a fruitful call and the District expressed all of the needs and desires and problem areas with the next application and that they took notes and are preparing the presentation for the Board. He said it is a work in progress and noted that the Planning Board meeting with the public hearing is on the 10th of December at LaGrange Middle School starting a 6 PM. Chairman Komorsky said they are expecting a pretty big turnout and recommended getting their early.

- **Department** – Department President Jeff Kaiser said the Chief mentioned it but there is a Department meeting on December 16th.
- **Union** – No report.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

At 6:58 PM, Chairman Komorsky opened the meeting to public comments.

There were none.

At 6:58 PM, Chairman Komorsky closed the public comment section of the meeting.

ABSTRACT: \$52,221.08

Upon a MOTION made by Commissioner Ward and SECONDED by Commissioner Pignataro, the Board RESOLVED to pay the bills for the end of November/beginning of December per the abstract for \$52,221.08. Pignataro – Aye, Tierney – Aye, Ward – Aye, Chairman Komorsky - Aye. **Motion Carried.**

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 6:59 PM, upon a MOTION made by Commissioner Pignataro, and SECONDED by Commissioner Tierney, the Board RESOLVED to go into Executive Session to discuss three contractual issues from Commissioner Ward and one contractual item Deputy Chief Zittel. Pignataro – Aye, Tierney – Aye, Ward – Aye, Chairman Komorsky - Aye. **Motion Carried.**

OPEN SESSION:

At 7:24 PM, the Board resumed Open Session.

PREPARE 12/18/25 MEETING AGENDA:

Bookkeeper Kaiser and/or Secretary Le will prepare the agenda. Brief discussion held on inviting the engineers to the next meeting.

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ADJOURNMENT:

At 7:26 PM, upon a MOTION made by Commissioner Pignataro, SECONDED by Commissioner Ward, the Board RESOLVED to adjourn the meeting. Pignataro – Aye, Tierney – Aye, Ward – Aye, Chairman Komorsky - Aye. **Motion Carried.**

Respectfully submitted by

Bria Le – District Secretary

Approved by the Board of Fire Commissioners on 12/18/25

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VENDOR	Amount Due	PO #	12/2/2025
AMAZON ✓	\$ 435.42	14814	SHOP SUPPLIES-VEHICLES/CLEANING SUPPLIES-BUILDING
BOTTINI FUEL ✓	\$ 1,091.12	14880	STAT 2 DIESEL FUEL
BRANDL'S TOWING ✓	\$ 1,120.00	14827	47-11 TOW
CENTRAL HUDSON ✓	\$ 1,617.75	14878	STAT 1 ELECTRIC/AREA LIGHT
DUTCHESS TIRE ✓	\$ 130.00	14869	SWAP OVER 47-73
ETHAN FINANCIAL (TOMPKINS) ✓	\$ 5,342.79	14882	CREDIT CARD CHARGES
FRONTIER ✓	\$ 179.19	14884	STAT 1 LOCAL/LONG DISTANCE SVC
GLOBAL AUTO REPAIR ✓	\$ 328.23	14839	47-74 BRAKE REPAIR
MEDICAL WAREHOUSE	\$ 445.99	14876	EMS SUPPLIES
MEDICAL WAREHOUSE	\$ 521.63	14875	EMS SUPPLIES
MEDICAL WAREHOUSE	\$ 316.40	14874	EMS SUPPLIES
MEDICAL WAREHOUSE	\$ 364.76	14873	EMS SUPPLIES
MES SERVICE CO	\$ 90.00	14794	SHOP SUPPLIES FOR SAW
MES SERVICE CO	\$ 365.00	14828	COMPRESSOR PREVENTIVE MAINT
MES SERVICE CO	\$ 311.78	14687	FLASHLIGHTS
MES SERVICE CO	\$ 1,125.76	14879	SCBA FLOW TEST
MES SERVICE CO	\$ 140.83	14793	UNIFORM-CAREER
MES SERVICE CO	\$ 211.91	14834	PPE EQUIP
MES SERVICE CO	\$ 409.42	14832	PPE REPAIR
MES SERVICE CO	\$ 211.08	14792	UNIFORM-CAREER
MES SERVICE CO	\$ 256.75	14791	UNIFORM-CAREER
MES SERVICE CO	\$ 28.00	5658	RESCUE EQUIP FOR 47-2
MES SERVICE CO	\$ 28.00	5675	SWIFT WATER GEAR
MJ ENGINEERING ✓	\$ 4,900.00	14389	STAT 2 SEPTIC & DRIVEWAY
MOTOROLA ✓	\$ 28,591.50	14422	MOBILE RADIOS
MURPHY'S SAND & GAVEL CORP ✓	\$ 300.00	14877	PUMP WASH TANK STAT 2
O'REILLY'S AUTOMOTIVE ✓	\$ 8.49	14815	PARTS FOR 47-32
ROYAL CARTING ✓	\$ 481.90	14886	GARBAGE REMOVAL ALL STATS.
STRYKER ✓	\$ 818.68	14843	LIFEPAK CARRY CASE W/POUCHES
TOWN OF LAGRANGE ✓	\$ 71.35	14872	WATER BILL
VCI EMERGENCY VEHICLE SPECIALISTS ✓	\$ 659.74	14842	SHOP SUPPLIES
VERIZON WIRELESS ✓	\$ 185.25	14854	MODEN CHARGES
WEX BANK ✓	\$ 1,103.37	14888	FUEL PURCHASES
ZORO ✓	\$ 28.99	14867	PARTS 47-32
TOTAL SUBMITTED	\$ 52,221.08		Commissioner Signatures:
<i>changes listed:</i>			Mark Komarsky
			Barry Ward
			Robert Taft
TOTAL APPROVED			KEY:
			pre-paid:
			Paid:
			Anthony Pignataro
			Vince Tierney

Balanced ✓