



MINUTES
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
Special Meeting – Tuesday, March 31st, 2026

ATTENDEES: Chairman Marc Komorsky Commissioner Jeff Kaiser
 Commissioner Robert Taft Commissioner Vincent Tierney
 Chief Anthony Champion Treasurer Mark Pozniak
 Secretary Bria Le Bookkeeper Jen Kaiser

At 4:00 PM, Chairman Marc Komorsky called the Board of Fire Commissioners' Special Meeting to order for Wednesday, March 4th, 2026, and led the Pledge of Allegiance. He said they were going to open up the budget workshop and invited Treasurer Mark Pozniak to start the discussion.

BUDGET DISCUSSION:

Chairman Komorsky said they would like to keep the budget meeting focused on the budget issues because they have a tendency to go on other tangents. Treasurer Pozniak briefly reviewed the 2026 average employee costs including salary, fringe benefits, and post-retirement benefits. Chairman Komorsky said the key for him is the bottom line on x. Treasurer Pozniak did note that there are some estimates, for example on overtime he took the 2025 numbers and estimated the average for every employee. Commissioner Tierney asked how much of the total budget was payroll and Chairman Komorsky stated that it was over half. Brief discussion followed regarding how the overtime estimate was calculated. Chairman Komorsky said that the payroll determines how much they have on the other side to do bathrooms, kitchens, and fixing other emergencies. He said it was a labor intensive business and an equipment intensive business so they have a floor and a ceiling that they have to work within. Commissioner Tierney said that this makes it easier for him to see where they are in the total compensation package to have discussions. Commissioner Kaiser said that, they can't give away the bank, but his concern is when they make the comment they can't let other districts 'steal' their guys and they have to get the list right away, people are not going to come here to start out at \$40,000/yr. He said they just had a candidate said they can't take the position because they can't afford to pay their mortgage and their truck payment or they are going to have a revolving door where people join, go to the academy, they transfer out. He said he wants to make sure they look at the budget and if they can afford to bump it up a little bit so they get qualified people to apply. Commissioner Tierney said that it is the take home pay and the total compensation package and Chairman Komorsky noted that it was a negotiable item with the union. Further discussion followed regarding staff compensation and the need to prioritize spending.

Commissioner Kaiser said that he has nothing against the building in town, but the town is outpacing the fire district. He said if they have over 2000 more residents in the next year or two, the ambulance will run more and the equipment will wear out quicker. Chairman Komorsky said they have at least one town center coming in initially that is going to attract people from all around, like Eastdale Village does, so run times will increase and the amount of calls will increase. Commissioner Kaiser said that he wants to make sure the public understands that, when they say you can get what you need because you are going to get more tax money, taxes aren't paying for the fire district's need. Chairman Komorsky said that he brought up during the first town council meeting that it is not dollar for dollar.

BoFC Special Meeting 03/31/26

Please note that this meeting was conducted in person at 504 Freedom Plains Road in Poughkeepsie, NY, - AND the Public Session portions of the meeting were open for public viewing via Microsoft Teams.



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Treasurer Pozniak showed the Board some estimates on payments, total interest, and percentage of the tax levy for a bond. He next went over the Station 1 phase 1 costs so far and estimate for completion. Discussion followed regarding the phase 1 costs and projected phase 2 costs. Treasurer Pozniak said they probably couldn't spend more than \$200,000 on it this year, but the whole project could still be something bigger. Commissioner Taft said that right now all they are going to do to lower the cost is to complete the kitchen, entryway, and do some sheetrock, then decide whether to go with a major alteration down the road or to get a new firehouse. Lengthy discussion followed about scaling down the project for now and considering long term options. Treasurer Pozniak reviewed the projected expenditures in the reserve budget and gave his recommendations for the Land & Building reserve transfer for next year's budget to cover those projections. Brief discussion followed regarding the budget.

Chairman Komorsky brought up the septic issue at Firehouse #3 that needs to be addressed. He said that it needs to be fixed correctly and it falls under an emergency repair. Commissioner Kaiser detailed the cause of the issue and went over the proposed work from Redemption Mechanical to resolve the issue for a total of \$10,800. Chairman Komorsky noted that it smells terrible in the building now. Brief discussion followed about pausing gatherings at that firehouse until the issue is resolved.

Upon a MOTION made by Commissioner Tierney and SECONDED by Commissioner Taft, the Board RESOLVED to spend \$10,800 to do the emergency repair for the Station 3 septic as stated on the proposal from Redemption Mechanical (attached). Kaiser – Aye, Taft – Aye, Tierney – Aye, Komorsky – Aye. **Motion Carried.**

Chief Champion said that they were presented with a quote from an HVAC agency for the service of the boilers and HVAC systems for all three stations. He said he has reached out to five different vendors and provided the scope of work to four of them and as of that date he has not heard back from any of them to provide a proposal or even to come in to survey the sites. Discussion followed regarding how long to wait for the vendors to respond. Chief Champion said that a new alarm panel was installed in the renovations at Station 1 and the current alarm company, Doyle Security, let him know that they need some new materials and came back with two different quotes, one is for an AES system with an internet backup and the other is a cellular primary with an internet backup. Discussion followed regarding the difference between the two options. Tabled until the next meeting.

Chief Champion said that JC Landscaping was looking to run electric from the subpanel in the closet above the drop ceiling, out of this room, go through over the entryway, and exit through the exterior wall, then drop underground to run to the junction boxes.

Chairman Komorsky recommended that they postpone the presentation to the town board that is scheduled the following evening since it falls on a holiday and they won't have a full room there. Treasurer Pozniak said that someone from the town reached out about costs associated with an ambulance call. Brief discussion followed regarding accurate reflection of the costs and the need to get more specific information on what they are looking for. Commissioner Kaiser brought up concerns about the District's past purchasing of two engines at the same time resulting in need to replace them both at the same time in the future. He said he was at the planning board meeting and that there is major stuff going on at the town and the fire district needs to have representation at the meetings so they are aware of the buildings and the changes that are coming. He said they need to know, from the Chief's side, whether they can get (equipment) in and out of the facilities. Commissioner Taft said the fire district need to develop their own codes to get the town to adopt. Discussion followed regarding the concerns about three story buildings and the fire department equipment needed to respond to them, the lack of a code enforcement officer in the town, and the need to get involved in the SEQR

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process and earlier in the town's approval process. Commissioner Taft said he would like to request for the town board to attend an upcoming fire district meeting and directed Secretary Le to invite them to attend the 4/28 meeting. Commissioner Kaiser also said that at the town board meeting that 6 people spoke in favor of not doing a moratorium on the battery storage facilities. Discussion followed regarding how to present the district's concerns on responding to fires/incidents at those facilities.

Commissioner Tierney said there were three things he wanted to bring up on the Station 2 septic. He said that they needed to modify the driveway slightly from the plans because they weren't initially marked right. He said they extended the driveway about 25 feet. Next he said that there were three white pine trees in the plans and Commissioner Kaiser expressed concerns about putting trees only 10 feet off of blacktop that grow 40 feet wide and 80 feet high and noted they would impinge on the parking lot, they break easy, and there would be no place to push the snow. Chairman Komorsky recommended that they discuss it at the next meeting, but Commissioner Tierney said that the vendor told him they need an answer in 12 hours. Commissioner Taft said they should leave them out because they can always put trees in later. Chief Champion brought up that JC Land asked if there was an area that was deemed appropriate for the placement of the monument so he wanted to bring it to the Board. Commissioner Kaiser said that, as a Station 2 member, that was a monument built by Station 2 the line of death duty of Bill Smith, Station 2 paid for it and the masons built it because Smitty was a mason. He said that his understanding from the beginning of the project, when he wasn't on the Board, that they had to take the monument down and that he continually asked to just hold off and when the project was done they will figure out where to put it. He was then told it was part of the project. Several weeks ago he was told that it was not part of the project, it would be a CR added on to the project. Now he finds out today that it is part of the project, that the vendor said that he bid on rebuilding the monument and they need to know where it is going. He said he is shocked that the Board never approached Station 2 to discuss any of it and they don't even know what they are rebuilding. He said that he is disappointed because he thought it would be done at a later date and now they are rushing to put it in. Chairman Komorsky said he was under the same impression that it would be done at a later date. Commissioner Tierney said he would have them take the monument out of the plans. Discussion followed regarding the monument.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 6:30 PM, upon a MOTION made by Commissioner Tierney and SECONDED by Commissioner Taft, the Board RESOLVED to adjourn the meeting. Kaiser – Aye, Taft – Aye, Tierney - Aye, Komorsky - Aye. **Motion Carried.**

Respectfully submitted,

Bria Le – District Secretary

Approved by the Board of Fire Commissioners 4/28/26

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