



LAGRANGE FIRE DISTRICT

504 Freedom Plains Rd • Poughkeepsie, NY 12603



MINUTES BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS Special Meeting Thursday, September 3, 2026

ATTENDEES:	Commissioner Marc Komorsky	Commissioner Vincent Tierney
	Commissioner Robert Taft (<i>late</i>)	Commissioner Jeff Kaiser
	Chief Anthony Champion (<i>absent</i>)	Deputy Chief Bryan Zittel (<i>absent</i>)
	Deputy Chief Scott Merritt (<i>absent</i>)	Secretary Bria Le (<i>absent</i>)
	Treasurer Mark Pozniak	Bookkeeper Jen Kaiser

At 6:00 PM, Chairman Komorsky called the Board of Fire Commissioners Special Meeting to order for Thursday, September 3rd, 2026, and led the Pledge of Allegiance. He welcomed everyone to the meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Station 1 – Chairman Komorsky said that before they go into Executive Session they had one item of old business to discuss. He said there was a question on the Station 1 S&O final billing and Bookkeeper Kaiser asked if they needed a release letter. Commissioner Tierney said what is supposed to happen is the plumber is supposed to go through CPL and they will sign off on completion, but Commissioner Tierney said that what they are waiting for officially is for Mike (Hekle) to say they are good to go with a master letter. Commissioner Tierney said he thinks they should pay the plumber and finish his contract since he is done. Chairman Komorsky asked if the work was all done. Commissioner Tierney said that he went out there and the work was all done and it looks pretty good. Commissioner Kaiser said that they never came back to caulk but the shower head issue had nothing to do with him and the strip across the one shower won't be needed if the Board puts a shower door in. Chairman Komorsky said that he will defer to the other commissioners if they think the plumber is done.

Upon a MOTION made by Commissioner Tierney and SECONDED by Commissioner Kaiser, the Board RESOLVED to pay S&O Plumbing \$38,904.40 to close out all of their work. Kaiser – Aye, Tierney – Aye, Komorsky – Aye. **Motion Carried.**

Chairman Komorsky said they can't make a motion on the shower door unless they have the exact amount so it can be done at the next meeting.

BUDGET SUMMARY:

- Treasurer Mark Pozniak reviewed the formatting of the budget. He said that for right now he has taken the 2026 budget for the high-level categories and projected it forward for 2027. He said it includes some appropriated fund balance that was part of the original plan when they took on the SAFER grant to build up additional fund balance then draw it down. He said they will need to make that number smaller and smaller for the next few years and it needs to get down to zero. He said that they can only appropriate fund balance that they specifically set aside for this purpose. Chairman Komorsky said that he and the treasurer have had this conversation every year when he brings up inflation and they have had somewhat runaway inflation since COVID so he asked if the treasurer factored in what the inflation increases have been. He said that they know about salaries approximately, but when they talk about vehicles and the cost of doing

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business on a day-to-day basis, the numbers have changed dramatically, and he asked if that had been taken into account. Treasurer Pozniak said he believes he did and will show the Board. He said the expenses side has salaries going up 5%, assuming no new staff beyond what was budgeted for this year. He reviewed the steps in the salary scheduled to show how he arrived at the 5%. He said he would go back and make the calculation more precise for the budget by using the actual number for each staff member but he had just calculated an average for the meeting tonight. Next for the contractual expenses, he said he hadn't looked at every line item yet, but for this purpose he just added a 4.5% increase and that this was for items like the electric bill, paper, gasoline, etc. He noted that it was a one year increase over 2026 and said if it is light, he potentially has an answer for it. Chairman Komorsky said he thinks it is light. Treasurer Pozniak next went to fringe benefits and said big drivers are the health insurance and pension. He said they don't know those numbers yet, but he has 7.25% plugged in for this purpose and that he has a 0% increase for the capital contributions. Chairman Komorsky said it could be 12% – 15% increases. Commissioner Tierney asked if they will get the notice from the state on the increases before they file the budget. Treasurer Pozniak said they will probably get it for the pension but probably not the health insurance and Commissioner Tierney said they will have to assume and Treasurer Pozniak confirmed they will have to make guesses on health insurance. Treasurer Pozniak said that initial assessment would be a 6.2% tax increase, but he has added some additional things that had been discussed that are above status quo such as hiring an additional administrative person, certain promotions, etc. and that total cost, if they did everything, would be \$429,152. He noted that they have already done two of items on that list – switching the part-time mechanic to full-time and the starting pay bump, so they have already done about \$168,000 and they can't reduce it below that amount. He said if they did all of the things on the list, it would cost about \$429,156, which would represent a 3.86% tax increase on top of the 6.2%. Next he said they had a pretty ambitious capital plan for the next year so if they want to stick with that plan, they will need to increase the transfer to the land and building reserve from \$515,000 to \$900,00 and increase the apparatus transfer from \$700,000 to \$775,000. He said they would a tax increase of 3.46% and .58%. Chairman Komorsky said he thinks they are light on the apparatus as well. Commissioner Tierney said they can use this as a base then they can get into the details. Commissioner Kaiser said before they go any further with contractual expenses, he asked if they accounted for the three people that could retire in the upcoming 2027 year and their benefits payout. Treasurer Pozniak said he hasn't gotten to that level of detail yet, but he said built into the 2026 line includes two or three people leaving in 2026 so it is accounted for in the big number. He said that the 4.5% (contractual expenses) is kind of his best guess but he admits it might be light and maybe they want to be a little conservative and do 5.5% or 6%. Chairman Komorsky asked to put in 6% to show what the numbers are. Then Treasurer Pozniak said in the fringe benefits he estimated 7.25% and Commissioner Tierney asked about the 2026 increase. Chairman Komorsky said the should estimate 10%. Treasurer Pozniak said he has a line where he has added another 2.75% to get to the ten. Brief discussion followed regarding the dollar amounts from a 7.25% increase to a 10% increase. Treasurer Pozniak said this is to just give the Board a ballpark but he will go back and go line by line on salaries and go back over the contractual expenses to look at everything to make sure the high level numbers are more precise. He noted that even when he does that level of detail, it is still a guess because there are lots of unknowns. Chairman Komorsky said it goes back to conversations they have had when you have more overtime that is added in. He said getting back to the growth aspect of the town, things that are happening that are unknown can blow things apart when people have to

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come in to cover the need. Treasurer Pozniak confirmed that they know what the staffing is going to be and what the pay rates are going to be, but they still don't know exactly what they are going to pay out. He said those are the most known things but it is still a bit of a guess and the other stuff is even more unknown. Commissioner Tierney asked how much overtime he factored into the amount and Treasurer Pozniak said he didn't remember exactly but said there is some factored in. Brief discussion followed regarding the salaries. Treasurer Pozniak said for land & building for 2027, they have \$235,000 for the second part of the Station 1 Phase 2 renovation, \$240,000 for renovations at Station 2, then \$30,000 for blacktop sealing and they are increasing it because they have big things coming up within the next couple of years also, so some of the 2027 increase is to get ready for the bigger expenses. He said if they want to decrease the \$900,000, they would have to plan to do less of the projects over the next few years. Commissioner Tierney said or they would have to increase their revenue. Commissioner Kaiser said his concern is that the can has been kicked down the road for so many years, things have started to fall apart. He said the apron at Station 1 has to be done because they can't keep living like that. Brief discussion followed about things that need to be done. Treasurer Pozniak said he was done with what he wanted to do in public, but some of the salary stuff needs to be discussed in executive session.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 6:34 PM, upon a MOTION made by Commissioner Tierney and SECONDED by Commissioner Kaiser, the Board RESOLVED to go into Executive Session to discuss contractual issues - salary and expenditures for the budget. Kaiser – Aye, Tierney – Aye, Komorsky – Aye. **Motion Carried.**

At approximately 6:37 PM, Commissioner Robert Taft joined the meeting.

OPEN SESSION & ADJOURNMENT:

At 8:00 PM, the Board resumed Open Session.

At 8:01 PM, upon a MOTION made by Commissioner Taft and SECONDED by Commissioner Tierney, the Board RESOLVED to adjourn the meeting. Kaiser – Aye, Taft – Aye, Tierney – Aye, Komorsky – Aye. **Motion Carried.**

Respectfully submitted by

Bria Le, District Secretary

Approved by the Board of Fire Commissioners on 9/22/26

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