

Regular Meeting
December 9, 2020
7 PM St 1

Commissioners:	Stephen DiLorenzo	(PRESENT)
	Benjamin Bragg	(PRESENT)
	Christian Erichsen	(ABSENT)
	John Fraino	(PRESENT)
	Alan Barone	(PRESENT)
Secretary/Treasurer	James Passikoff	(ABSENT)
District Clerk	Denise A. Holzberger	(PRESENT)
Chief	Peter Miller	(PRESENT)

Chairman DiLorenzo called the meeting to order, led the salute to the flag and called for a moment of silence in memory of all fallen firefighters. Chairman DiLorenzo congratulated Commissioner John Fraino on his re-election.

1. Approval of Minutes- October 19, 2020 2021 Proposed Budget Hearing

Chairman DiLorenzo asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the 2021 Proposed Budget hearing.

MOTION: Commissioner John Fraino moved to approve the minutes of the 2021 Proposed Budget, seconded by Commissioner Alan Barone.

VOTE: 3 Yes 0 No 1 Abstain 1 Absent Commissioner Ben Bragg Abstained
Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes of October 19, 2020 Special Meeting

MOTION: Commissioner John Fraino moved to approve the minutes of Special Meeting of October 19, 2020, seconded by Commissioner Alan Barone.

VOTE: 3 Yes 0 No 1 Abstain 1 Absent Commissioner Ben Bragg Abstained
Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes of November 10, 2020 regular meeting

Approval tabled.

2. Authorization to Pay Bills

Chairman DiLorenzo asked for a motion to pay the bills as reviewed on December 7, 2020 by Commissioners Bragg and Barone, and Chief Miller.

MOTION: Commissioner John Fraino moved to approve the abstract of bills in the amount of \$21597.98, seconded by Commissioner Alan Barone.

VOTE: 4 Yes 0 No 0 Abstain 1 Absent

Motion carried.

3. Correspondence-

Letter received from Town of Lloyd regarding backflow prevention devices inspection

Room Requests :

Thursday December 17, 2020 Town of Lloyd Police Reform Committee requests to use the community room 18:00-21:00

MOTION: Commissioner Alan Barone moved to approve the use of the community room by the Town of Lloyd Police on Thursday December 17, 2020, seconded by Commissioner John Fraino.

VOTE: 4 Yes 0 No 0 Abstain 1 Absent

Motion carried .

4. New Membership- none

5. Committee Reports:

Building and Grounds St.1- Commissioners Bragg and Barone-

Storage container- pending contact information from Sgt. Roloson.

Compressor- pending; possibly by Jan 2021.

Storage Room- specifications are needed; three “rooms” to be created for storage in the Community room. Storage for Fire Prevention equipment and records.

Gerard & Associates- report received for alarm system and card access. Commissioner Bragg noted that you cannot mis and match existing equipment with new as that causes problems due to incompatibility. There are two exterior doors at Station 2. Prevailing wage must be considered. \$3500 to \$5500 for design and bid specification preparation. There was discussion to proceed or hold. It was decided to wait until new year (2021) to decide to go forward or not.

Buildings and Grounds St 2-Commissioners Erichsen and Fraino

Christmas Tree Sales- Hose Company has begun Christmas Tree Sales

6. New Apparatus-

New ladder- Inspection was December 2, 3 and 4 , 2020

Truck is scheduled to leave Ocala on Friday December 11, 2020. Chairman DiLorenzo stated that it very impressive how the truck(ladder) works. A Training Session was held for E-one's Sales team and our truck was used to demonstrate how to use.

A tremendous amount of work goes into the design of truck to enable smooth movement. There are USB ports in the bucket and 2 joy sticks.

Two Pumpers-final stripper for the 2 engines has been received. Stripper is the list they use to build the truck. Will put together something for selling 31-20 and 31-30.

Graphics- are next, referencing 31-35. Also laying out equipment and how shelves should be built on ladder truck.

6. Insurance/Workers Compensation

Cancer Insurance- form due January 1, 2020

7. Ulster County Fire District Association- Commissioners Bragg, DiLorenzo

9/16/2021 meeting scheduled to be held at Highland.

8. Service Awards -

LOSAP/NFIRS Software-2021 Upgrade Notification

2020 Deposit- \$140,000 deposited in March 2020

Resolution to Adopt new legislation for COVID-19

**Highland Fire District
Resolution of the Board of Fire Commissioners**

In the matter of amending the Highland

Fire District Service Award Program

Point System for periods when

Special Response Rules are in effect

During the COVID 19 pandemic of 2020

WHEREAS As authorized by Article 11-A of the New York State General Municipal Law the Board of Fire Commissioners of the Highland Fire District established a Service Award Program for active volunteer firefighters of the Highland Fire District; and,

WHEREAS Active volunteer firefighters earn Service Award Program service credit under the Service Award Program Point System adopted by the Board of Commissioners of the Highland Fire District; and,

WHEREAS, in response to the outbreak of Novel Coronavirus, COVID-19, NYS Governor Andrew Cuomo declared a STATE DISASTER EMERGENCY and issued EXECUTIVE ORDER 202 OF 2020. In response to the STATE DISASTER EMERGENCY New York State fire districts, towns, villages, cities, and their volunteer fire department/company officials adopted Special Response Rules restricting volunteer firefighter responses to emergency responses and/or restricting the holding of activities for which points could be earned during the STATE DISASTER EMERGENCY; and,

WHEREAS the adoption of the Special Response Rules has affected the ability of active volunteer firefighters to earn points in service award programs; and

WHEREAS; In recognition of the negative effect these Special Response Rules has on the ability of active volunteer firefighters to earn service credit during 2020 under service award program point systems, New York State legislators and Governor Andrew Cuomo enacted legislation intended to prevent active volunteer firefighters who otherwise would have earned service award program service credit during 2020 from failing to earn a year of service award program service credit during 2020 due to the adoption of Special Response Rules; and,

WHEREAS, this legislation, Chapter 113 of 2020 of the Laws of the State of New York, authorizes the Highland Fire District Board of Fire Commissioners to adopt a resolution to amend the Highland Fire District Service Award Program point system by adding a new category to the point system under which up to five (5) points per month (prorated for periods of less than one month) may be awarded to active volunteer firefighters during the period when the Special Response Rules are in place; and

WHEREAS Should the Board of Fire Commissioners elect to adopt such a resolution, Chapter 113 of 2020 the Laws of the State of New York, provides that the adoption of such resolution does not require approval of Fire District residents at a Fire District election.

Now, Therefore, BE IT RESOLVED, That:

By adopting this resolution, the Board of Fire Commissioners of the Highland Fire District, adds the following new category to the Highland Fire District Service Award Program Point System:

COVID-19 Pandemic of 2020

As a result of the COVID-19 Pandemic of 2020, the Board of Fire Commissioners adopted Special Response Rules under which the activities for which active volunteer firefighters could earn points under the Highland Fire District Service Award Program point system were reduced effective as of (March 14, 2020). Such reduction in activities continued until the effective date the Special Response Rules are rescinded and all volunteer firefighter activities restored by the Board of Fire Commissioners. From the effective date of the adoption of the Special Response Rules to the effective date that such Rules are rescinded, all active volunteer firefighters of the Highland Fire District shall be awarded five (5) points per month with

such number of points prorated for periods of less than a complete month. In no event shall points be awarded to active volunteer firefighters in accordance with Chapter 113, after November 3, 2020, unless NYS Governor Andrew Cuomo once again extends Executive Order 202 of 2020.

Based on the period and pro-ratio for the partial month(s), each active volunteer firefighter is to be awarded a total of twenty-two (22) points in 2020, in addition to any points earned by the active volunteer firefighter during calendar year 2020.

The board may modify this resolution by April 30, 2021 in the event that additional information is provided that would lead the Board to determine that additional points for the period be awarded.

All other provisions of the Highland Fire District Service Award Program shall not change as a result of the adoption of this resolution and the program shall continue to be administered by the Board of Fire Commissioners of the Highland Fire District in accordance with Article 11-A of the New York State General Municipal Law as such law is amended from time to time.

December 9, 2020 Adopted by the Highland Fire District Board of Fire Commissioners:

Commissioner Alan Barone moved,

Commissioner Benjamin Bragg seconded, and the Board of Commissioners voted as follows:

	YES	NO
Commissioner Stephen DiLorenzo	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>
Commissioner Benjamin Bragg	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>
Commissioner Alan Barone	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>
Commissioner John Fraino	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>
Commissioner Christian Erichsen	ABSENT	

The resolution was duly adopted on December 9, 2020.

9. Treasurer Report November 2020

Treasurer Passikoff had distributed the November 2020 report to the Board.

MOTION: Commissioner John Fraino moved to accept the November 2020 Financial report as submitted by the Treasurer, seconded by Commissioner Ben Bragg.

VOTE: 4 Yes 0 No 0 Abstain 1 Absent

Motion carried .

10. Public Comment-

President Balint noted that Christmas Tree Sales are going well.

11. Chief's Report-

Chief Miller reported that training has stopped.

Santa Run- 12/20/20

There was discussion regarding An Assistant Chief filling in when a Chief is not available to attend a Board meeting.

12. Old Business- 2020 Annual Election Results were as follows: A total of 22 Ballots were cast; All 22 were for commissioner John Fraino.

13. New Business-

Membership status change- to be updated with a letter (Rosenkranse no longer age-restrictive)

Re-organizational Meeting- Wednesday Jan 6, 2021 at 7 PM

14. Physicals-

Chief is working on that; it was noted that NFPA is a guideline not law.

15. Executive Session

MOTION: At 8:25 Pm, Commissioner John Fraino moved to go to executive session to discuss a contract pertaining to emergency services, seconded by Commissioner Alan Barone.

VOTE: 4 Yes 0 No 0 Abstain 1 Absent

Motion carried .

16. Return to regular session and adjournment

MOTION: At 9:15 PM, commissioner John Fraino moved to return to the regular session and there being no further business, moved to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Alan Barone.

VOTE: 4 Yes 0 No 0 Abstain 1 Absent

Motion carried .

Respectfully Submitted,

Denise Holzberger, District Clerk

DRAFT