

Highland Fire District

Regular Meeting
February 14, 2023
7:00 pm – St #1

Commissioners:	Stephen DiLorenzo	(PRESENT)
	Christian Erichsen	(PRESENT)
	Alan Barone	(PRESENT)
	Kevin Rizzo	(PRESENT)
	Phil Roloson	(PRESENT)
Treasurer	James Passikoff	(ABSENT)
District Clerk	Denise A. Holzberger	(ABSENT)
District Secretary	Leslie B. Benson	(PRESENT)
Chief	Peter Miller	(PRESENT)
President	Jim Balint arrived 7:05PM	(PRESENT)

Commissioner DiLorenzo called the meeting to order at 7pm, led the salute to the flag and asked for a moment of silence. Commissioner DiLorenzo welcomed everyone.

1. Approval of Minutes:

Chairman DiLorenzo asked for approval of the minutes for January 10, 2023.

Motion: Commissioner Phillip Roloson moved to approve organizational meeting minutes from January 10, 2023, seconded by Commissioner Kevin Rizzo

Vote: 5 Yes 0 No 0 Abstain 0 Absent

Motion: Commissioner Chris Erichsen moved to approve regular meeting minutes from January 10, 2023, seconded by Commissioner Kevin Rizzo

Vote: 5 Yes 0 No 0 Abstain 0 Absent

2. Authorization to Pay bills:

Chairman DiLorenzo asked for approval to pay the bills as reviewed by Commissioners Christian Erichsen, Alan Barone and Chief Peter Miller on Monday, February 13, 2023.

Commissioner Chris Erichsen advised the two abstracts totaled \$49,671.78

On hold bill for Premier for \$2500 – warranty on 31-45. This bill is under warranty and voided.

Motion: Commissioner Kevin Rizzo moved to approve payment of the abstract of bills totaling \$49,671.78, seconded by Commissioner Alan Barone.

Vote: 5 Yes 0 No 0 Abstain 0 Absent

3. Correspondence:

Room Requests:

Red Cross Blood drives: they submitted dates for 2023: 2/17/23, 4/14/23, 5/19/23, 6/16/23, 8/18/23, 9/15/23, 10/13/23, 11/17/23 and 12/15/23. We allow 11 dates for blood drives. The Red Cross hired the custodians to set up the room.

Motion: Commissioner Chris Erichsen moved to approve all dates, seconded by Commissioner Phillip Roloson.

Vote: 5 Yes 0 No 0 Abstain 0 Absent

Jim Balint requested the room for a private party on 3/4/23 from 12-4pm.

Motion: Commissioner Kevin Rizzo moved to approve March 4, 2023 seconded by Commissioner Chris Erichsen.

Vote: 5 Yes 0 No 0 Abstain 0 Absent

Mike DePaola requested the room for the Ulster County Fire Police Association on May 10, 2023 from 7 – 9 PM.

Motion: Commissioner Chris Erichsen moved to approve May 10, 2023 seconded by Commissioner Phillip Roloson.

Vote: 5 Yes 0 No 0 Abstain 0 Absent

Eugene Roosa from CSEA Town of Lloyd, Unit 8964 requested the room from May 16-May 18, 2023 from 8 AM – 5 PM for the purpose of CSEA Peer Training – Trenching and Excavating.

Motion: Commissioner Steve DiLorenzo moved to approve May 16- May 18, 2023 seconded by Commissioner Kevin Rizzo.

Vote: 5 Yes 0 No 0 Abstain 0 Absent

Leslie Benson requested the room for the Highland Hose Ladies Auxiliary on 9/22-9/23/23 for their Penny Social fundraiser.

Motion: Commissioner Chris Erichsen moved to approve September 22- September 23, 2023 seconded by Commissioner Alan Barone.

Vote: 5 Yes 0 No 0 Abstain 0 Absent

4. At 7:30 PM opened Public Hearing for the New York State Real Property Tax

We want to propose members can qualify with 2 years of service up to 10%. Town of Lloyd Councilman John Fraino was present and advised the Town is proposing 10%. Commissioner Erichsen asked if anything was being worked on in Clintondale or any other Districts reacting. The School is on board. The tax credit is in effect for 2023 and the deadline is February 28, 2023. This is a good recruiting and retention tool. We currently have 46 members and 5 members do not have 2 years. Chief Miller advised that firefighters average less than 3 ½ years. Firefighters receive \$200 off their income tax. Chief Miller provided other statistics pertaining to volunteers and indicated this is significant to support firefighters. Commissioner Barone said this is the time to do this, we need incentives to volunteer. Chief Miller presented it very well. There were no additional comments or questions from the public.

Motion: Commissioner Roloson moved to close the public hearing at 7:40 PM seconded by Commissioner Rizzo followed by the Resolution.

A meeting of the Highland Fire District Board of Fire Commissioners, was held at the firehouse located at 25 Milton Ave, Highland, New York on February 14, 2023 at 7:30pm.

The following resolution was offered by Commissioner Roloson and seconded by Commissioner Rizzo:

WHEREAS, The New York State Real Property Tax Law has been amended by adding a new section 466-a regarding a partial real property tax exemption of up to ten percent of the assessed valuation of the primary residence owned by an eligible volunteer firefighter and ambulance worker, for town, part town, village, special district, fire district or county purposes, exclusive of special assessments and

WHEREAS, The Law requires that for the volunteer firefighter to be eligible, the volunteer firefighter must be certified by the Highland Fire District that the volunteer firefighter is an enrolled member of its fire company, Highland Hose Company, No. 1, Inc. for an established minimum service requirement for each eligible volunteer firefighter of between two years of service and five years of service and

WHEREAS, the Law further requires for firefighter eligibility that the Highland Fire District certify that the volunteer firefighter meets or exceeds the minimum service requirement,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, as follows:

In accordance with the aforesaid Law, The Board of Fire Commissioners determines that the minimum service requirement for any active firefighter who has been a member of the Highland Hose Company, No. 1, Inc. and has been an active firefighter of the Highland Fire District is a minimum of 2 years as shall be determined by the Highland Fire District and such eligible firefighter shall be placed on a list and certified so noting, and said list shall be provided to and be in compliance with the applicable city, town, part town, village, special district, school district, fire district or county's requirement or procedure for certification;

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED, that any enrolled member of the Highland Hose Company, No. 1, Inc. and an active firefighter of the Highland Fire District who accrues more than 20 years of active service as determined by the Highland Fire District shall be placed on a list and certified so noting, provided to and in compliance with the applicable city, town, part town, village, special district, school district, fire district or county's requirement or procedure for certification.

Vote: 5 Yes 0 No 0 Abstain 0 Absent

Resolution was passed unanimously at a regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners on February 14, 2023.

5. Committee Reports:

Building and Grounds St 1 - Commissioners Barone and Roloson

Commissioner Barone advised new office door frame & hardware are on order. Arrival is expected next week and can be installed.

Commissioner Roloson advised servers, wiring is approximately \$55,000

Shared calendar to be set up with the district and Chief officers, therefore using one calendar for scheduling. We need to reset credentials for Assistant Chiefs. Anyone that needs their emails activated, send an email to Commissioner Roloson.

Day Automation – Commissioner Roloson advised server is in, equipment is on backorder – no estimated date. IP address needed.

Police Station - New roof unit #8 installed, as we purchased temporary heaters and Commissioner Erichsen gave an additional unit until completed.

Commissioner DiLorenzo advised ordering office chair for new office and possibly for officers.

A new refrigerator was purchased.

Commissioner Barone – Seal coating #1 needed with some areas being added near Mobile Life catch basin – needs to be redone. With the mild weather, pavers are doing work now.

Building and Grounds St 2 - Commissioners Erichsen, Rizzo and Barone

Commissioner Erichsen advised the apron work will be revisited in the Spring. The guiderails in back were looked at and reinstall behind trailer.

6. New Membership: None

7. New Apparatus:

31-11 - It was noted the pump module was not painted and dates to be reconfirmed. We are looking at March.

Command Cars – Lighting ordered and engine done

8. Insurance/Workers Compensation:

Commissioner DiLorenzo advised he spoke with Linda and they will be meeting on February 28, 2023 at 3pm with Commissioner Barone.

9. **Service Awards:** We will be working on the LOSAP resolution, please see Leslie before you leave tonight as we will be sending information to Firefly on 3/6/23. For 2023, reduced to \$107,000 and a contribution will be made. Phil DeAngelo will join us on 3/14/2023.

Highland Fire District

Resolution of the Board of Fire Commissioners

In the matter of approving the 2022 certified points

WHEREAS, the Fire District is the sponsor of a Length of Service Award Program (LOSAP) on behalf of the Highland Hose Company No. 1 in accordance with Article 11-A of the New York State General Municipal Law (GML); and

WHEREAS, as required by GML § 219-a(2)(c), the Highland Hose Company No. 1 has submitted the attached list, certified under oath, of active members of the Fire Company, indicating those volunteers who earned at least fifty points during 2022 to qualify for service credit; and

WHEREAS, the certification made by the Fire Company includes a statement that the points recorded on the attached list have been tabulated in accordance with the Point System adopted by the Fire District to be in effect during calendar year 2022, and to the best of the knowledge of the Fire Company, is a true and accurate reflection of the activities performed by the active members; and

WHEREAS, GML § 219-a(2)(d) requires the Board of Fire Commissioners (Board) to review and approve the attached list, then return it to the Fire Company to be posted for thirty days; and

WHEREAS, the Board has completed its review of the attached list; NOW, THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Board of Fire Commissioners approves the attached list of volunteer firefighters of the Highland Hose Company No. 1 and the points earned by these firefighters during calendar year 2022; and be it further

RESOLVED, that a copy of this adopted resolution and the attached list shall be returned to the Fire Company for posting for a minimum of thirty days.

Commissioner Rizzo raised the motion to approve, Commissioner Roloson seconded the motion, and upon roll call the vote of the Board was as follows:

Commissioner	Christian Erichsen	Aye / Nay / Absent
Commissioner	Alan Barone	Aye / Nay / Absent
Commissioner	Stephen DiLorenzo	Aye / Nay / Absent
Commissioner	Kevin Rizzo	Aye / Nay / Absent
Commissioner	Phillip Roloson	Aye / Nay / Absent

The resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted.

Dated: 2/14/2023

Certified by Fire District Secretary (signature or seal): Leslie B. Benson

10. Ulster County Fire District Association: Commissioner DiLorenzo advised the meeting in Highland was just changed to March 22, 2023. Commissioner Erichsen will handle refreshments.

11. Treasurer Report: We contacted Noreen and no report for January.

12. Public Comment: None

13. Chief's Report: Chief Miller

2/15/23 – 31-60 to Erichsen's to adjust jack break
2/16/23 – Flash over training – Firefighter 1
2/21/23 – UCVFA Meeting
2/22/23 – E31-35 – Erichsen service, tarp being repaired
2/24/23 – Firefighter 1 – Graduation
2/26/23 – OSHA
2/27/23 – Duty Night
3/6/23 – Monday – SCBA makeup
3/7/23 – Hose Company meeting
3/13/23 – Duty Night
3/14/23 – Board of Fire commissioners meeting

Monthly Report for January provided to the town (John Fraino). 462 alarms, 643 man hours

ISO – Working with the Town of Lloyd Water Department to commit 20% of hydrants flow testing annually. Discussion with the Water department on where and how many hydrants, and the future expense. Resolution letter to be sent to ISO mitigation to accept Class 3 rating by February 15, 2023.

Required Training Resolution

WHEREAS the Highland Fire District with the distinction of currently possessing an Insurances Services Office (ISO) rating of Class 3, and in the interest of maintaining said class rating without regression, must take certain actions to ensure the district can meet the requirements needed to do so.

WHEREAS one of the areas of the ISO evaluation found to be deficient was Driver/Operator Training and to correct this deficiency additional Highland Fire District Training shall be established.

WHEREAS additionally there is ISO required training for firefighters and the Highland Fire District shall establish a training schedule to accommodate this requirement.

WHEREAS the Highland Fire District acknowledges “Mandatory” training required by the New York State Office of Fire Prevention and Control and the New York State Department of Labor Bureau of Public Employee Safety and Health.

WHEREAS the Highland Fire District shall establish the following as Required Trainings:

Annual HazMat Refresher Training as required by NYS OFPC and PESH

Annual OSHA/PESH as required by NYS OFPC and PESH

Driver/Operator Training as required to acquire the recommended points by ISO (minimum of eight (8) hours per annum).

Firefighters are required to attend three (3) hour training once per quarter to attain the maximum allowable ISO points for structural fire training per annum. (The Live Burn Training may be one of these four trainings.) For maximum ISO points for structural firefighting training.

WHEREAS the Highland Fire District shall ensure all firefighters have two opportunities to complete the required training within a reasonable time after the initial scheduled date. It shall be the sole responsibility of the Chief and the Fire Officers to establish the primary training date and any required makeup date for any training. It shall be reasonable to expect all firefighters to make the initial scheduled date as these trainings are typically scheduled out approximately a year or more in advance.

WHEREAS the Highland Fire District shall be responsible in determining the course of action or actions required when firefighters do not, or cannot, complete the required training on the date or dates established and provided to do so.

RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH REQUIRED HIGHLAND FIRE DISTRICT TRAINING

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Highland Fire District Board of Fire Commissioners have established the four (4) trainings defined above as REQUIRED TRAINING for all firefighters.

Vote: 5 Yes 0 No 0 Abstain 0 Absent

Resolution was passed unanimously at a regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners on February 14, 2023.

Chief Report continued:

Training schedule posted in radio room.

Two (2) iPads are needed for Assistant Chief’s for fire mobile and IOS compatible. iPads are \$1399.99 each and \$129.95 for otterbox. Cost for two will be approximately \$3060 plus delivery.

Motion: Commissioner Phillip Roloson moved to purchase 2 iPads seconded by Commissioner Alan Barone.

Vote: 5 Yes 0 No 0 Abstain 0 Absent

14. Old Business-

Furniture – We will wait until new room is established...revisit once door is cut.

AED's – Not ordered

Reminder: Commissioners Roloson and Rizzo need to take mandatory training as newly elected.
Glenham training – Leslie will send dates to commissioners

15. New Business:

Commissioner DiLorenzo advised the Association of Fire Districts has training for the secretary in May with 4 programs for secretaries. The cost is \$200. Leslie is interested in attending.

Motion: Commissioner Rizzo made a motion to approve the training for the secretary, seconded by Commissioner Roloson.

Vote: 5 yes 0 No 0 Abstain 0 Absent

Commissioner Erichsen also suggested the Commissioners training and this is also available on line.

16. Executive Session:

Motion: At 8:23 PM, Commissioner DiLorenzo moved to go to executive session to discuss personnel matters seconded by Commissioner Chris Erichsen

Vote: 5 yes 0 No 0 Abstain 0 Absent

17. Return to regular session and Adjournment:

Motion: Commissioner Roloson moved to return to the regular session of the meeting at 8:48 PM seconded by Commissioner Kevin Rizzo.

Revised proposal for Leslie Benson to change hours from 35 to 40 hours – giving her a weekly increase.

Motion: Commissioner Roloson made a motion to accept 40 hours for the secretary, seconded by Commissioner Rizzo

Vote: 5 Yes 0 No 0 Abstain 0 Absent

Motion to adjourn at 8:50 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie Benson, District Secretary