

**ENDWELL FIRE DISTRICT
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS MEETING
December 28, 2022**

Members:

Carlton "Andy" Anderson, Chairman
Don Battaglini, Vice Chairman
Michael Hamzik
Mark Storm

Others Present:

Erika Pereira, Administrative Assistant
Alison Senft, District Treasurer
Marcy Pratt, Deputy Treasurer
Rob Brady
Michael Lewis
Kyle Ferraro
Davey Cortes
Joseph Becker

The meeting was called to order at 4:33 pm by Commissioner Anderson.

Motion by Commissioner Battaglini, second by Commissioner Hamzik to approve the minutes of the November 30, 2022 meeting. All aye; motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Motion by Commissioner Battaglini, second by Commissioner Hamzik to approve the treasurer's report and the capital reserve summary. All aye; motion carried.

Unfinished Business:

1. Station 3: We are currently waiting on some design plans.
2. New apparatus – Sutphen Tower: Truck is being built.

Resolution No. 2022-02

RESOLVED, that pursuant to Section 6-g of the General Municipal Law, as amended, the Endwell Fire District does hereby authorize the transfer of a sum not to exceed \$552,061.48 from its Apparatus Capital Reserve Account to the District's General Operating Account for continued Fire District operations including the acquisition of an aerial ladder tower for Fire District purposes and services related thereto.

No expenditure shall be made except upon authorization of the Board, and it is further

RESOLVED, that this resolution is subject to a permissive referendum as provided by Section 6-g of the General Municipal Law.

Commissioner Battaglini moved, Commissioner Hamzik seconded, and the Board of Fire Commissioners voted as follows:

Name:	Voting: Aye or Nay:
Chairman Anderson	Aye
Commissioner Battaglini	Aye
Commissioner Storm	Aye
Commissioner Hamzik	Aye
Commissioner Stupski	Not Present

The foregoing resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted and approved by the Board of Fire Commissioners.

3. Bunk Program: Commissioner Storm stated that Commissioner Stupski is going to get him up to date with the information that has been gathered. Commissioner Storm will help out with getting the program up and running.
4. Greenlight: Greenlight is up and running.
5. New Chief Vehicle: Transferring of the funds can be completed on December 01, 2022. The target production week is January 9, 2023, for the victory red Tahoe.
6. Inspection Dinner & Gift Ideas: Motion by Commissioner Storm, second by Commissioner Hamzik to approve DJ Chris Jach to provide DJ and event services for the Inspection Dinner in the amount of \$2,000.00. Nonrefundable deposit in the amount of \$500.00. All aye; motion carried.

Motion by Commissioner Storm, second by Commissioner Hamzik to approve the fire truck acrylic for the first-place awards for the inspection dinner in the amount of \$990.00 for 9. All aye; motion carried.

Commissioner Storm is waiting on another quote from RTIC for a smaller cooler. The 32 QT ultra-light cooler is currently out of stock. A price quote from RTIC for 20 can soft pack cooler, 20 oz. tumbler, 32 quarts ultra-Light Hard Cooler for Active, Life, and Auxiliary members in the amount of \$17,628.62.

7. Siren at Station 2: Commissioner Anderson stated he will have Federal Signal come out and test the siren to try and figure out what is going on.
8. Short-Term Investments: Alison Senft reached out to Kim Ward at M&T Bank to this discuss. Kim stated that she could get the Fire District a 9-month CD at 4.6 percent. Alison would like to meet with the Board of Fire Commissioner to discuss the capital budget to make sure we are all good and to see how much money they would like to invest. Commissioner Anderson would like Alison to create a schedule and provide her recommendations for investing to review before scheduling a meeting.
9. Commissioner Storm stated he would like to see the District reimburse Taylor Derkowski his deductible in the amount of \$2,000.00. His car was totaled and did not receive a lot of money for the car. A claim was submitted through the Fire District vehicle accident policy since he was responding to a call when the accident occurred. Commissioner Anderson stated he will check with our NBT Account Executive, William VanGorder, to see if our insurance would cover the deductible.

New Business:

1. Approve bills and supplement for payment: Motion by Commissioner Battaglini, second by Commissioner Storm to pay the bills and supplement for payment:
Vouchers # 12-001 to 12-071 and including payroll and Debt Service interest payments totaling \$110,618.52.
December Accruals List: Vouchers # 12-072 to 12-087 totaling \$12,972.27.
All aye; motion carried.

2. Line Transfers: Motion by Commissioner Battaglini, second by Commissioner Storm to accept the submitted line transfer submitted by Treasurer, Alison Senft. All aye; motion carried.
3. Buildings & Grounds:
 - New Lighting at the Fuel Pump – Commissioner Anderson is going to speak with T&B Electric to get some clarification on the proposed work.
 - Jeff’s Painting & Washing & Remodeling Proposal: Motion by Commissioner Storm, second by Commissioner Hamzik to approve the work in the amount of \$850.00. All aye; motion carried.
 - Commissioner Storm would like to have Jeff’s Painting come out and take a look at the men’s bathroom across from the community room and provide repairs and painting. The border along the wall seems to be coming off and showing signs of water damage.
 - Motion by Commissioner Storm, second by Commissioner Hamzik to approve the replacement of the men’s bathroom door in the amount of \$1,610.20. All aye; motion carried.
 - Legg’s Cleaning was contacted to see if they could add cleaning the tile flooring and grout in the community room kitchen.
4. Community Room Reservations Requests: Motion by Commissioner Storm, second by Commissioner Hamzik to approve the requests for usage of the community room. All aye, motion carried.

Date	Times	Requested by	Use	Cost	Comments
01-29-2023	All Day	Alice Fiacco	Baby Shower	\$200 Security Deposit	Member

5. Chiefs Report: Motion by Commissioner Storm, second by Commissioner Battaglini to accept the Chief’s Report. All aye; motion carried.

Honorable Board Members,

The new aerial has the entire ladder mounted to the body. I am waiting to hear from our salesman as to when a final inspection trip should be scheduled.

We are still waiting for our new gear order from 2021. I had Assistant Chief Grafton get in touch with our salesman, and we should see it by the end of next month. Our order from this year is still 10 months or so out.

I spoke with the County Fire coordinator about our issue with the station sirens going off for medical-related calls. The sirens are only supposed to sound for Fire and Rescue related calls. He informed me that the dispatchers have been toning the calls out wrong and an email was sent to all dispatchers and supervisors to ensure that this is taken care of.

I went and got my required physical earlier this month, it isn’t due until mid-January. With the recent issues that our members have been experiencing with getting the results back in a timely manner, I wanted to go early. The staff at Lourdes Occupational informed me that they are without a medical director currently and that is the reason for the longer wait times.

We ran several calls on Christmas day, one of which was to Traditions at the Glen. They had a sprinkler pipe break in the attic of the building. I was on the phone with the owner Bill Walsh before I even walked in the front door. Within minutes we had the sprinkler water supply shut down and the leak stopped. He was very thankful for our efforts and for my familiarity with the building from years of working there. He had a large amount of food delivered to the station for our members to convey his gratitude.

6. Support Services Report: Motion by Commissioner Storm, second by Commissioner Battaglini to accept the Support Services Report. All aye; motion carried.

7. Maintenance Division Report: Motion by Commissioner Storm, second by Commissioner Battaglini to accept the Maintenance Report. All aye; motion carried.

The following maintenance was completed since the last board meeting:

- Engine 31-1 Repairs for a hydraulic leak coming
- Quint 31 Repairs for a hydraulic leak coming/getting quotes for LED lights
- Tower 31 Repairs for cooling leak coming/High speed for repair
- SCBA 3 out for repair

8. Training Division Report: Motion by Commissioner Storm, second by Commissioner Hamzik to accept the Training Division Report. All aye; motion carried.

Dear Board Members,

Training held in the month of December

- December 5th – Fire Investigation
- December 12th – Stop the Bleed Training
- December 19th – Brady Film Festival
- December 26th – No Training - Holiday

Special Operations Training:

- Water Rescue – Boat Operations – Susquehanna River – December 4th

Outside Training Offered:

- McNeil Trainings Online
- NYSEG Trainings Online

Currently in NYS Training:

- None

Upcoming Fire Training in January 2023:

- January 2nd – No Training - Holiday
- January 9th – Forcible Entry and Tools
- January 16th - Building Construction
- January 23rd – SCBA Dodgeball
- January 30th – Radio Communications

The Training Schedule for January has been posted to the lamresponding Application.

9. Fire Company Report: Motion by Commissioner Storm, second by Commissioner Hamzik to accept Brianna Hill, Thomas Hobart, Christopher Lee, and Kimberly Hill (auxiliary) as new members of the fire company. All aye; motion carried.

10. O.L. Davis Fire Company Newsletter: Commissioner Anderson reminded everyone that Alice Fiacco, Company Secretary, is working on the monthly newsletter and to think of ideas to place in the newsletter.

11. Donation(s): We received a donation from Philip Knapp in the amount of \$100.00. Motion by

Commissioner Storm, second by Commissioner Hamzik to place the donations in our donation fund. All aye; motion carried.

12. 2022 Election Results: Motion by Commissioner Storm, second by Commissioner Hamzik to receive and file results of the Fire District election. All aye; motion carried.

Michael Lewis was elected as Fire Commissioner for a 5-year term beginning January 01, 2023, and ending December 31, 2027.

Christopher Lee wanted to challenge the election because his name was not on the ballot. He originally submitted a petition to run for Fire District Commissioner but did not have enough registered voters within the Endwell Fire District signatures. Therefore his name was not placed on the ballot but there was a blank spot for a write-in candidate. All information was sent over to our lawyer for review.

The Board of Election had 112 voters signed in, 112 votes cast and counted, but only 111 should have voted. However, there was no impact on the results as the winner won by more than 20 votes.

Erika spoke with our attorney, Angelo D. Catalano with Coughlin & Gerhart, to go over the issues that were had with the election and to make sure proper protocol was followed.

13. NYS Volunteer Firefighter Cancer Benefit Program: Motion by Commissioner Storm, second by Commissioner Hamzik to purchase the enhanced plan in the amount of \$6,580.75. All aye; motion carried.
14. Community Room Kitchen Dishwasher: Commissioner Hamzik will review the specs for each of the dishwashers and will come back with a recommendation for purchase at the next meeting.
15. Grey Goose 2023 Service Rates: Motion by Commissioner Hamzik, second by Commissioner Storm to accept 2023 service rates from Grey Goose. All aye; motion carried.
16. Jerome Bignoli 2022 Engagement Letter: Motion by Commissioner Hamzik, second by Commissioner Storm to accept the engagement letter from Jerome Bignoli to complete the 2022 Audit. All aye; motion carried.
17. FOIL Request: The Fire District received several requests and they were sent over to the lawyer to see how to proceed.
18. Motion by Commissioner Battaglini, second by Commissioner Hamzik to authorize the Treasurer to pay vouchers, utilities, payroll, debt service, credit cards, and special check requests as due to close the books for the year 2022. All aye; motion carried.
19. The 2023 Organizational meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 04, 2023, at 6:00 pm.
20. Commissioner Anderson stated On December 9, 2022, Governor Hochul signed legislation that creates an opt-in for all local governments to provide a 10% property tax exemption to volunteer firefighters and volunteer ambulance workers (L 2022, ch 670, § 1). The law took effect immediately and can be implemented by your local governments now.

Real Property Tax Law § 466-a allows for an exemption of up to 10% of the assessed valuation of the primary residence of volunteer firefighters and/or volunteer ambulance workers. The law allows each entity of local government (e.g., county legislature, city council, school board, town board, village board, board of fire commissioners) to adopt a local law opting into the exemption. Localities that currently provide the exemption under the existing law would be required to adopt a local law to conform to the new law.

For information on this new legislation please refer to <https://fasny.com/resources/county-index-numbers/>

Hearing of Visitor(s): Joseph Becker residing at 22 Jackson Ave asked if the Board of Fire Commissioner would hear his grievances regarding his recent interview with the O.L. Davis Fire Company New Membership Committee. The Board of Fire Commissioner allowed Mr. Joseph Becker to speak.

Joseph Becker was a prior member of the Fire Company and Fire Department back in 2014 but was dropped since he had moved out of the Endwell Fire District by one block. He had put in an application to become a member once again since the borders were opened up to a 2-mile radius. Both applications were denied due to his history which was the same as when he first applied and was accepted. Joseph Becker stated he already has taken Firefighter 1 and was green-tagged while at Endwell Fire.

Mr. Joseph Becker stated that he feels with both of his application processes he was targeted by Kevin Leniek, Rob Brady, and Gregg Cook. He had people within the organization tell him that with both applications they approached members and told them not to vote for me and slander his name to membership.

Mr. Joseph Becker stated he will proceed with legal action if he can. He has a lawyer looking into what course of action can be taken. Mr. Joseph Becker thanked the Board of Fire Commissioners for listening.

Commissioner Battaglini stated that he will not be at the organizational meeting since he will be having surgery.

Commissioner Anderson moved to enter into an executive session to discuss personnel issues at 4:49 pm.

Exited executive session at 5:20 pm with no action taken.

Correspondence(s): Copies of the Association of Fire Districts of the State of New York newsletter were handed out.

Motion by Commissioner Battaglini, second by Commissioner Anderson to adjourn the meeting at 6:00 pm. All aye; motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,



Mark Storm
MS/EP