

October 17, 2023

MEETING OPENED:

The East Fishkill Board of Fire Commissioners held their regular board meeting at district headquarters. Chairman Shultis called the meeting to order at 7:17 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Those members present were: Chairman Shultis, Vice-Chairman Dixon, Commissioner Ehrhart, Commissioner Jodlowski and Commissioner Freer.

All motions were unanimous, unless otherwise stated.

Bank statements were opened by Commissioner Freer. There were no issues.

On a motion by Commissioner Jodlowski and seconded by Commissioner Ehrhart, the bills payable were approved. Motion carried.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS:

None.

TRANSFER OF MEMBERSHIP:

None.

DRIVER/TRAINING APPLICATION:

Station 1 – Anthony Provenzano – waiting for insurance approval

On a motion by Commissioner Ehrhart and seconded by Vice-Chairman Dixon, pending insurance approval, this driver was approved. Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Letter from Hopewell Hose regarding upcoming events.
2. Letter of intent from Dan Jackson, Jr. to run for the position of Car 2.
3. Letter of intent from John Jackson to run for the position of Car 1.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Commissioner Ehrhart made the motion and read the resolution to exceed the tax cap in 2024 (attached to these minutes). Seconded by Vice-Chairman Dixon. Chairman Shultis asked to poll the Board:

- Commissioner Dixon – aye
- Commissioner Ehrhart – aye
- Commissioner Freer – aye
- Commissioner Jodlowski – aye
- Chairman Shultis – aye

Motion Carried.

Vice-Chairman Dixon made a motion to accept the 2024 Budget as presented at the Public Hearing in the amount of \$3,926,892.00, of which \$3,852,544.00 will be raised by taxes. Seconded by Commissioner Freer. Chairman Shultis asked to poll the Board:

Commissioner Dixon – aye
Commissioner Ehrhart – aye
Commissioner Freer - aye
Commissioner Jodlowski- aye
Chairman Shultis – aye

Motion carried.

Vice-Chairman Dixon made a motion to accept the new Sexual Harassment policy. He explained to those present that this version is from the Association of Fire Districts and will be included in the East Fishkill Fire District Rules and Regulations. Seconded by Commissioner Ehrhart. Chairman Shultis asked to poll the Board:

Commissioner Dixon – aye
Commissioner Ehrhart – aye
Commissioner Freer - aye
Commissioner Jodlowski- aye
Chairman Shultis – aye

Motion carried.

On a motion by Vice-Chairman Dixon and seconded by Commissioner Freer, the suspension of Firefighter #49 will continue until the next Board meeting on October 25, 2023. Motion carried.

Commissioner Jodlowski made a motion to accept all changes and modification made to the East Fishkill Fire District Rules and Regulations. Seconded by Commissioner Ehrhart and carried. This document will be available on the District website.

NEW BUSINESS:

Vice-Chairman Dixon advised that the District Chief and Parade Chairman, Danny Keane, have put together rules for parade uniform distribution. He made a motion to accept this document. Seconded by Commissioner Ehrhart and carried. This document will be available on the District website.

Vice-Chairman Dixon made a motion allowing two members to attend the NYS Arson Seminar November 14 – 16, 2023. They will not require accommodations. Seconded by Commissioner Jodlowski and carried.

Vice-Chairman Dixon made a motion to approve the list of upcoming events at Hopewell Hose. Seconded by Commissioner Ehrhart and carried.

Commissioner Jodlowski made a motion to allow six members to attend EMS Connections on November 11th at Dutchess Community College. The cost is \$65/per person and includes meals. They will require transportation. Seconded by Commissioner Ehrhart and carried.

A motion was made by Vice-Chairman Dixon to allow up to 15 members to attend a CPR/AED class to be held November 13th at Hopewell Hose. The class will be offered to Hopewell Hose members first and if not filled, will be offered to the rest of the District. The cost is \$20/per person. Seconded by Commissioner Ehrhart and carried.

1st ASSISTANT CHIEF:

Chief Jackson advised the Board that he continues to work with Bullex to get the system up and running. Last night training was done on the first floor, but the third floor is still out of service.

Chief Conti asked if there was any progress with the Ferrara lawsuit. Vice-Chairman Dixon advised that a new ladder truck is in the future. There was recently a conversation with our lawyers and Ferrara lawyers but there were no substantial updates. Prior to the conversation, our lawyers questioned whether we would be willing to go back to the negotiation table with Ferrara, which we said we would. The attorneys also asked if the ladder truck had been used since July 2022, we replied no. They asked if it is currently in service, we replied no. They asked if it still in the same condition, we replied yes.

Commissioner Ehrhart advised that the judge ruled that the lawsuit will move forward in Louisiana, which is very good for us.

Chief Gallo requested the support group be able to use the bay for their craft fair. Vice-Chairman Dixon made a motion to allow the support group use of the bays at Station 2 for their craft fair. Seconded by Commissioner Jodlowski and carried.

At 7:32 PM Vice-Chairman Dixon made a motion to enter into executive session to discuss a personnel issue. Seconded by Commissioner Freer.

Chief Saltzburg requested permission to suspend any rescue members who back up the ambulance without a spotter, unless there is no one available. The Board agreed and Chief Saltzburg will advise the membership at the next meeting.

At 7:38 PM Commissioner Freer made a motion to adjourn the executive session. Seconded by Vice-Chairman Dixon and carried.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to adjourn was made at 7:38 PM by Commissioner Freer and seconded by Vice-Chairman Dixon.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathe Kaye
Secretary/Deputy Treasurer

EAST FISHKILL FIRE DISTRICT

RESOLUTION NO. 1: OVERRIDE REAL PROPERTY TAX CAP FOR THE 2024 BUDGET

WHEREAS, the Board of Fire Commissioners of the East Fishkill Fire District must adopt a proposed budget for 2024 and estimate of fund balances in preparation for the annual fire district budget hearing and did so in preparation for the budget hearing, and

WHEREAS, the Board of Fire Commissioners of the East Fishkill Fire District held the annual fire district budget hearing on notice to the public on October 17, 2023, and

WHEREAS, the Board has considered the proposed budget and comments received on the proposed budget on October 17, 2023 at said budget hearing, and

WHEREAS, the Board has determined that the financial needs of the fire district and fire department for fiscal year 2024 cannot be supported by a budget that would comply with the real property tax cap established pursuant to Section 3-c of the General Municipal Law as the proposed budget for 2024 calls for a real property tax levy that will exceed the real property tax cap permitting only a 2.00% increase in said tax levy; and

WHEREAS, Section 3-c of the General Municipal Law provides as follows:

A local government may adopt a budget that requires a tax levy that is greater than the tax levy limit for the coming fiscal year, not including any levy necessary to support the expenditures pursuant to subparagraphs (i) through (iv) of paragraph g of subdivision two of this section, only if the governing body of such local government first enacts, by a vote of sixty percent of the total voting power of such body, a local law to override such limit for such coming fiscal year only, or in the case of a district or fire district, a resolution, approved by a vote of sixty percent of the total voting power of such body, to override such limit for such coming fiscal year only.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Fire Commissioners hereby approves a determination to override the real property tax cap for the 2024 budget only in order to permit an annual real property tax levy that will exceed the real property tax cap permitting only a 2.00% increase in said tax levy and result in a final annual fire district budget in the amount of \$3,926,892.00 with \$3,852,544.00 raised by taxes, and

The adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly put to a vote and upon roll call the vote was as follows:

Commissioner Dixon - Aye
Commissioner Ehrhart - Aye
Commissioner Freer - Aye
Commissioner Jodlowski - Aye
Chairman Shultis - Aye

The resolution was thereupon duly declared to have been adopted.

Dated: East Fishkill, New York
October 17, 2023