

February 22, 2023

MEETING OPENED:

The East Fishkill Board of Fire Commissioners held their regular board meeting at headquarters. Chairman Shultis called the meeting to order at 8:05 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

All motions were unanimous, unless otherwise stated.

MOMENT OF SILENCE: For all fallen brothers and sisters in the military, police, and fire and EMS service.

PUBLIC HEARING:

On a motion by Commissioner Ehrhart and seconded by Commissioner Jodlowski, the Public Hearing in regards to the partial tax exemption for volunteer firefighters was opened. Motion carried.

Commissioner Jodlowski stated that NYS passed a law allowing a 10% discount on a firefighter's residential assessment for their primary residence. The school district had their hearing last week and the Town Board will be holding their Public Hearing in March. Attorney MacLeod stated the County has scheduled this for adoption by them in March. It will not go into effect until the January 2023 taxes. It will only be applicable for members who live in the fire district they protect. Chief Lacalamita asked if it was applicable to multiple residences if you own more than one house and Commissioner Jodlowski said no. Attorney MacLeod also stated that as of now someone could take either the \$200.00 deduction or the 10% discount on the assessment.

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

The minutes of the January 25, 2023 and February 13, 2023 meetings were accepted on a motion by Vice-Chairman Dixon and seconded by Commissioner Jodlowski. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The Treasurer's Reports for January 2023 was accepted on a motion by Vice-Chairman Dixon and seconded by Commissioner Jodlowski. Motion carried.

BILLS PAYABLE:

Vice-Chairman Dixon made a motion that the bills from the General Fund totaling \$73,428.99 and \$1,489.44 from the Reserve for Major Equipment, numbered 116 through 173, as proposed, be approved. Seconded by Commissioner Jodlowski and carried.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS:

None.

DRIVER/TRAINING APPLICATION:

None.

COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Resignation letter from Scott Lombardo from Station 2.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

On a motion by Vice-Chairman Dixon and seconded by Commissioner Jodlowski, pending the successful completion of a permissive referendum, \$30,000 will be spent from the Reserve Fund for Major Equipment for the upgrades needed to the CONEX boxes. Motion carried.

Commissioner Jodlowski made a motion to add Cancer Coverage from VFIS to cover all interior firefighters for all cancers at a cost of \$9,405.00.

NEW BUSINESS:

Commissioner Ehrhart made a motion to allow Station 2's Pancake Breakfast and Easter Egg hunt on April 2, 2023. Seconded by Commissioner Jodlowski and carried.

On a motion by Commissioner Ehrhart and seconded by Vice-Chairman Dixon, up to 16 members are authorized to attend the NYS AFC Hands-on Flashover training on 4/23-4/23 at \$125.00 per person. Motion carried.

Commissioner Ehrhart made a motion to allow John Ryan to use his chief vehicle to attend the Kent Installation Dinner in Danbury on 2/25/2023. Seconded by Vice-Chairman Dixon and carried.

Motion made by Vice-Chairman Dixon and seconded by Commissioner Jodlowski to close the Public Hearing.

Commissioner Jodlowski made a motion as attached to these minutes, to adopt a resolution authorizing a volunteer firefighter and volunteer ambulance worker's real property tax exemption. Seconded by Commissioner Ehrhart and carried.

DISTRICT CHIEF:

1. The turnout gear for Kevin Donovan showed up.
2. He asked if condemned turnout gear could be used for exterior only use. Commissioner Ehrhart said no, there is a legal liability once it is condemned.
3. The Chief met with the developers of the new warehouse on the old Dome site. He has a link he will share with the officers and will share more information as he gets it.
4. Chief Lacalamita and Chief Gallo have been working on the Operating Procedures. They will present it to the chiefs and then to the Board once they are done.

1st ASSISTANT CHIEF:

1. He thanked the Board for the Flashover Training and for the funding for the CONEX boxes.
2. He also thanked the Board for setting the precedence by accepting the decrease in the assessed values for taxes for firefighters.

Commissioner Jodlowski stated he called Teixeira Polaris again, but has not received a call back. He spoke more about the tax deduction and stated there are some firefighters who live in other school districts. He was unsure how that would affect them. Attorney MacLeod stated they can only claim the deduction if they live in the town the fire district protects. He also said members will have to apply for it, it is not automatically applied. Commissioner Jodlowski stated he has been calling the Tax Assessor's office often, but so are many members. He asked that members refrain from calling so the office isn't getting inundated with calls. He will pass on information as soon as he receives it. They are also trying to see if there is a way for Town staff to come here to complete the paperwork with the volunteers instead of everyone showing up at the Town Hall.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to adjourn was made at 8:29 PM by Commissioner Jodlowski seconded by Commissioner Dixon.

Respectfully Submitted,

Julie J Beyer
Secretary/Treasurer

**EAST FISHKILL FIRE DISTRICT
Town of East Fishkill
Dutchess County, New York**

Volunteer Firefighter and Volunteer Ambulance Workers Real Property Tax Exemption

February 22, 2023

At a regular meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners of the East Fishkill Fire District in the Town of East Fishkill, Dutchess County, New York, held at the East Fishkill Fire District Headquarters, 2502 Route 52, Hopewell Junction, New York 12533, on February 22, 2023;

The meeting having been called to order and the following being present and voting throughout:

Steven Shultis
Corey Ehrhart
Christopher Jodlowski
Stephen Dixon

And the following being not present:

Roy Freer

The following resolution was duly made, seconded and discussed:

RESOLUTION

**“Resolution Authorizing A Volunteer Firefighter and
Volunteer Ambulance Workers Real Property Tax Exemption”**

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS OF THE EAST FISHKILL FIRE DISTRICT AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. It is the intent of the Board of Fire Commissioners of the East Fishkill Fire District to provide a real property tax exemption to qualifying volunteer firefighters and ambulance workers that serve the East Fishkill Fire District, as set forth in Real Property Tax Law § 466-a, as amended by Chapter 670 of the Laws of 2022.

Section 2. Authority: Real Property Tax Law § 466-a, as amended by Chapter 670 of the Laws of 2022, authorizes the Board of Fire Commissioners of the East Fishkill Fire District to adopt a resolution providing a real property tax exemption of up to ten percent (10%) of the assessed value of real property owned by qualifying volunteer firefighters and ambulance workers that serve the East Fishkill Fire District.

Section 3. Grant of Real Property Tax Exemption for Volunteer Firefighters and Volunteer Ambulance Workers: The Board of Fire Commissioners of the East Fishkill Fire District hereby provides, upon application to the Assessor of the Town of East Fishkill, a real property tax exemption of ten percent (10%) of the assessed value of real property for individuals that meet the following qualifications:

1. The individual is an enrolled and certified member of the East Fishkill Fire District, having been so certified by the Board of Fire Commissioners of the East Fishkill Fire District, and the individual has a minimum of two (2) years of service with the East Fishkill Fire District; and
2. The individual resides in the Town of East Fishkill; and
3. The real property is the primary residence of the individual and is used exclusively for residential purposes, and any portion of the property not used for residential purposes shall be subject to taxation.

Section 4. Grant of Lifetime Real Property Tax Exemption for Certain Volunteer Firefighters and Volunteer Ambulance Workers: The Board of Fire Commissioners of the East Fishkill Fire District hereby provides a lifetime real property tax exemption of ten percent (10%) of the assessed value of real property for any individuals that have been certified by the Board of Fire Commissioners of the East Fishkill Fire District as having accrued twenty (20) or more years of active service, so long as their primary residence remains within the Town of East Fishkill.

Section 5. Surviving, Un-Remarried Spousal Exemption for Members Killed in the Line of Duty: The Board of Fire Commissioners of the East Fishkill Fire District hereby provides for the continuation, upon application, of a real property tax exemption granted to an enrolled member of the East Fishkill Fire District to such deceased enrolled member's un-remarried spouse if such member is killed in the line of duty, provided that:

1. Such un-remarried spouse is certified by the Board of Fire Commissioners of the East Fishkill Fire District as an un-remarried spouse of an enrolled member of the East Fishkill Fire District who was killed in the line of duty; and
2. The deceased member had been an enrolled member for at least five (5) years; and
3. The deceased member had been receiving the exemption prior to death.

Section 6. Surviving Un-Remarried Spousal Exemption for Deceased Members: The Board of Fire Commissioners of the East Fishkill Fire District hereby provides for the continuation, upon application, of a real property tax exemption granted to an enrolled member of the East Fishkill Fire District to such deceased enrolled member's un-remarried spouse, provided that:

1. Such un-remarried spouse is certified by the Board of Fire Commissioners of the East Fishkill Fire District as an un-remarried spouse of an enrolled member of the East Fishkill Fire District; and
2. The deceased member had been an enrolled member for at least twenty (20) years; and
3. The deceased member had been receiving the exemption for such property prior to death.

Section 7. Application: Application for the real property exemption and a certification provided by the Board of Fire Commissioners of the East Fishkill Fire District shall be filed with the assessor for the Town of East Fishkill on or before the taxable status date of each year, if required.

Section 8. Severability: If any clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, or part of this Reolution or the application thereof to any person, firm or corporation, or circumstance, shall be adjusted by any court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid or unconstitutional, such order or judgment shall not affect, impair, or invalidate the remainder thereof, but shall be confined in its operation to the clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, or part of this Resolution or in its application to the person, individual, firm or corporation or circumstance, directly involved in the controversy in which such judgment or order shall be rendered.

Section 9. No Diminution of Benefit: No individual who is a volunteer firefighter or volunteer ambulance worker who, by reason of such status, is receiving any benefit under the provisions of Article 4 of the New York State Real Property Tax Law on the effective date of this Resolution, shall suffer any diminution of such benefit because of the provisions of this Resolution.

Section 10. Effective Date: This Resolution shall be effective immediately upon filing with the Town Clerk of the Town of East Fishkill, Dutchess County, New York.

After due deliberation, the question of adoption of this Resolution was duly put to a roll call vote, which resulted as follows:

Steven Shultis	Yes
Corey Ehrhart	Yes
Christopher Jodlowski	Yes
Stephen Dixon	Yes

The resolution was thereby duly adopted.

Dated: February 22, 2023
Hopewell Junction, NY

Julie Beyer, Secretary
East Fishkill Fire District
Board of Fire Commissioners

TREASURER'S REPORT
AS OF JANUARY 31, 2023

GENERAL FUND

BALANCE JANUARY 1, 2023	\$	123,672.81
RECEIPTS	\$	9,728.80
PLUS: TRANSFER FROM NYCLASS GENERAL FUND	\$	0.00
EXPENDITURES	\$	126,003.25
BALANCE JANUARY 31, 2023	\$	<u>7,398.36</u>

GENERAL FUND

CHECKING ACCT.	\$	2,328.41
SAVINGS ACCT.	\$	5,069.95
TOTAL	\$	<u>7,398.36</u>

NYCLASS ACCOUNTS - GENERAL FUND

BALANCE JANUARY 1, 2023	\$	87,796.40
RECEIPTS	\$	306.24
LESS: TRANSFER TO TOMPKINS ACCOUNTS	\$	0.00
BALANCE JANUARY 31, 2023	\$	<u>88,102.64</u>

NYCLASS ACCOUNTS - RESERVE FOR MAJOR EQUIPMENT

BALANCE JANUARY 1, 2023	\$	418,827.98
RECEIPTS	\$	1,460.88
LESS: TRANSFER TO TOMPKINS ACCOUNTS	\$	0.00
BALANCE JANUARY 31, 2023	\$	<u>420,288.86</u>

NYCLASS ACCOUNTS - RESERVE FOR BUILDING & LAND

BALANCE JANUARY 1, 2023	\$	800,708.84
RECEIPTS	\$	2,792.88
LESS: TRANSFER TO TOMPKINS ACCOUNTS	\$	0.00
BALANCE JANUARY 31, 2023	\$	<u>803,501.72</u>

RESERVE FUND - PURCHASE, MAJOR EQUIPMENT

BALANCE JANUARY 1, 2023	\$	92,379.83
RECEIPTS	\$	6.18
PLUS: TRANSFER FROM NYCLASS RES. MAJOR EQUIP. FUND	\$	0.00
EXPENDITURES	\$	10,771.95
BALANCE JANUARY 31, 2023	\$	<u>81,614.06</u>

RESERVE FUND - BUILDING & LAND

BALANCE JANUARY 1, 2023	\$	1,620.35
RECEIPTS	\$	0.13
PLUS: TRANSFER FROM TOMPKINS	\$	0.00
EXPENDITURES	\$	1,989.54
BALANCE JANUARY 31, 2023	\$	<u>(369.06)</u>

TRUST AND AGENCY FUND

BALANCE JANUARY 1, 2023	\$	0.00
RECEIPTS	\$	765.34
EXPENDITURES	\$	100.00
BALANCE JANUARY 31, 2023	\$	<u>665.34</u>