

**NORTH GREECE FIRE DISTRICT
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
1766 Latta Road Station #2
2/22/2022**

PRESENT: Chairman M. Beaty (videoconference), Commissioners W. Bedford, W. Rickman, M. Stolte; Treasurer/IT A. Hinds, Secretary Kari Dutton, Administrator T. Gretzinger, Fire Chief S. DeRosa, Deputy Treasurer 2 K. Preston

ABSENT: Commissioner Tom Emerson

PUBLIC: Joe Camiolo, Nancy Adams, Directors Bob Wegner, Bill King, Mark Neusatz, Scott Louth

The Vice-Chairman called the regular meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and noted the fire exits. The opening of the meeting was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence for our departed members.

PUBLIC TOPICS

- Joe Camiolo expressed concern over items not presented to the public in the agenda ahead of time. He requested a written explanation of why the treasurers report has not been given to the public.

MOTION BY Commissioner WB, MS, 2nd by Commissioner, To resolve to approve payment of voucher nos. 6777 - 6794 totaling \$309,860.71 as submitted by Treasurer Hinds and audited by the Board of Fire Commissioners on 2/22/2022.

*M. Beaty – yes, W. Bedford – yes, T. Emerson – absent, W. Rickman – yes, M. Stolte – yes
Carried*

Commissioner W. Bedford

- 100th Anniversary Celebration update. A history of how planning progressed was given. Last year we budgeted for one event. However, it was split into 2 events. The 100th Anniversary and a Fall Awards Ceremony. Both boards feel they don't have enough information for where money is being spent. Per town law, a fire district may fund an annual inspection dinner. Therefore, the district can only fund one event, an inspection dinner. It can however happen at the same event as the anniversary.
 - The Chief clarified that the 2019 and 2020 Awards Ceremonies were combined events. Recognition for members happened in 2021. He decided to cancel the September event. He was told that it would be too long to have the awards and the 100th anniversary at the same event. We can postpone recognition until 2023.
 - Auxiliary President Nancy Adams addressed the board regarding the division between the 2 parties. Unfortunately, at the age of some of our 50-year members, a celebration may not be able to wait until next year. It is too late to get proper recognition for the April event. It would be nice if the two entities could act as one.
 - There was further discussion of how to fund the event as an inspection dinner and how to get awards out. This will be discussed at the next meeting.
 - The Board of Directors commented that they feel they don't have enough information.
- Future planning was discussed. Commissioner Bedford has started a draft which needs input from everyone else.
- A new procurement policy draft was submitted for review.
- New commissioner training was held Saturday. Of note, to sell or dispose of assets anything under \$20,000 only requires a resolution. Anything above \$20,000 but less than \$100,000 requires a permissive referendum. And anything \$100,000 or over requires a mandatory referendum with an exception for trade-in.

Commissioner W. Rickman

- A request was made to the secretary to return to the 1st meeting agenda template for all meetings.

Commissioner M. Stolte

- Asset tracking discussion. IT Hinds has tracking for electronic equipment. Red Alert has other equipment under the maintenance tab. E-pro also tracks items.
- Letters have been signed and will be sent to the town supervisors notifying of the partial tax exemption motion.

IT/ Treasurer A. Hinds

- There was a discussion on receiving electronic payments. There is a cost of utilizing of 3 % for credit card, 1 % for electronic transfer. He recommended we allow people to pay with electronic payments with a convenience fee paid by the payee. There isn't a legal problem with doing this. There is no cost to the district.

Secretary K. Dutton

- Foil request approved for Empire Center asking for Contracts including all appendices, salary grade tables, and side letter with the Firefighters
- FOIL request approved to send 2/8/22 Treasurer's report to J. Camiolo.

Chief S. DeRosa

2022.4000.9.02.22

MOTION BY Commissioner M. Stolte, 2nd by Commissioner W. Rickman, To send FF M. Baxter and FF J. Champion to the NYS Fire Academy for Instructor Authorization Training Program on March 20-23 at a cost not to exceed \$500 for both members. The certification is for FF-I Series instructor level and will be used at our training facility for live burn evolutions.

*M. Beaty – yes, W. Bedford – yes, T. Emerson – absent, W. Rickman – yes, M. Stolte – yes
Carried*

2022.4000.10.02.22

MOTION BY Commissioner M. Stolte, 2nd by Commissioner W. Rickman, To allow Captain Short and Lt. Dorgan to participate in an online training program on Truck Company Strategies and Tactics at a cost not to exceed \$200 for both members. The date of this training can be done at their convenience as it is 100% online.

*M. Beaty – yes, W. Bedford – yes, T. Emerson – absent, W. Rickman – yes, M. Stolte – yes
Carried*

- A claim was filed with our insurance company today for the issues caused by the power outage over the weekend. Penn Power will be coming to problem solve tomorrow. It was a transmission level power outage that affected a 34,000 V line. The problem was the transfer switch sensed a loss of voltage but didn't kick on because the electrical side of the generator system failed which extended our outage. When they came to see why we were still without power, they saw the switch in neutral and put the power back in. Something took out the switch causing the surge in the building. There was damage to many low voltage items including computers, TVs, and the power surge unit. The circuit board on the generator may have caused all the problems. The costliest so far was the power unit for our fire alarm system and smoke heads. There is a chance the transfer switch may need to be replaced and it is recommended to have surge protection checked to see if needs replacing.

Deputy Treasurer 2 K. Preston

- At the state level, the volunteer fire service is considered to be dying across the state. A volunteer task force has been assigned to a committee made up of all political appointments to investigate the future of the fire service from a volunteer standpoint. There are 6 subgroups. The report was due April 30th. and an amendment has been offered to push that out to December 31. Any decisions won't change anything until there is an amendment to VFBL law which prevents districts from doing anything for volunteers in pay or benefits. We are asking

attorneys to start working on proposed legislation to do that. This will take years to accomplish, and the volunteer fire service will die without further legislation.

Chairman M. Beaty

- Our construction manager has been consulted about re-roofing house 1. They are getting measurements and will get us more information.

MOTION BY Commissioner W. Bedford, 2nd by Commissioner M. Stolte, To move to executive session at 7:18 PM to discuss matters relating to personnel hiring/firing.

M. Beaty – yes, W. Bedford – yes, T. Emerson – absent, W. Rickman – yes, M. Stolte – yes
Carried

MOTION BY Commissioner, 2nd by Commissioner, To resolve to adjourn the regular meeting at 7:54 p.m.

M. Beaty – yes, W. Bedford – yes, T. Emerson – absent, W. Rickman – yes, M. Stolte – yes
Carried

Respectfully submitted,

Kari Dutton, Secretary
Board of Fire Commissioners
North Greece Fire District