

**NORTH GREECE FIRE DISTRICT  
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING  
1766 Latta Road Station #2  
6/27/2023**

**PRESENT:** Commissioners M. Beaty, W. Bedford, J. Maxwell, M. Stolte; Treasurer/IT A. Hinds, Secretary Kari Dutton, Administrator T. Gretzinger, Acting Chief K. Battaglia, Acting Deputy Chief J. Lissow, Atty. R. DiRaddo

**ABSENT:** Chairman W. Rickman

**PUBLIC:** Joe Camiolo, Gene Preston, BC J. Klein

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.

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In loving memory of  
*Past Assistant Chief*  
*Thomas Barr*

Passed June 11, 2023  
Serving the Fire District from 1965-1992

In Loving Memory of  
**Past Commissioner Ken Preston**  
A Pillar of Strength and Dedication  
July 6, 1944 – June 7, 2023

The North Greece Fire Department mourns the loss of a true hero and dedicated servant, Ken Preston. For over six decades, Ken selflessly devoted his life to the betterment of our community, leaving an indelible mark on our hearts and the firefighting profession. In this post we pay tribute to his exceptional legacy and commemorate his unwavering commitment.

Ken's journey with the North Greece Fire Department began in 1962, when he joined the North Greece Fire Department, and his contributions were felt in every corner of our organization. Throughout his long and illustrious career, he held numerous roles, each one executed with unparalleled passion and expertise. As a firefighter, Ken displayed extraordinary courage in the face of danger, fearlessly rushing into perilous situations to protect lives and property. His unwavering commitment to public safety and his willingness to put others before himself earned him the utmost respect of his colleagues and the gratitude of the community he served. Ken's bravery was matched only by his unwavering professionalism, making him a role model for generations of firefighters. Ken continued as one of the department's most active members until very recently.

Beyond his firefighting duties, Ken's influence extended into various administrative and leadership roles within the department, district, county and state. He served on the Board of Directors of the fire department, President of the fire department, President of the North Greece Exempts (after progressing through the ranks) and Captain of the Fire Police. He served as a commissioner (for a total of 32.4 years) and deputy treasurer of the fire district, President of the Greece Fire Officers Association, and as both treasurer and President of the Monroe County Fire District Officers Association. His work was probably most valuable as a director and finally the president of the Association of Fire Districts of the State of New York where he fought tirelessly for fire districts around the state.

Ken's keen organizational skills, attention to detail, and visionary mindset helped shape the North Greece Fire Department and District into the exceptional institution it is today. In 2013, he was awarded the Monroe County's Joint Fire Service Leadership Meritorious Service Award. And in the 1990's he was very instrumental in establishing the North Greece Fire District Length of Service Awards Program to enhance volunteer recruitment and retention.

Ken's wisdom and experience were invaluable assets to both the department and district. He selflessly shared his knowledge with fellow firefighters, mentoring and guiding them to become exceptional first responders themselves. His patience, kindness, and dedication to the development of others created a lasting impact on the lives of countless individuals, molding them into exemplary firefighters and community leaders.

Today, we say goodbye to a true legend, but we take solace in knowing that Ken's spirit lives on within each of us. His legacy will continue to inspire future generations of firefighters, reminding them of the unwavering dedication, professionalism, and selflessness required to carry on the noble traditions of the North Greece Fire Department.

To Ken Preston, we offer our deepest gratitude and heartfelt appreciation for a life well-lived and a legacy that will never fade. Your memory will forever burn brightly in our hearts, and your impact on our community will endure for generations to come. Rest in peace, dear friend, knowing that you have made a profound difference in the lives of so many.

## **PUBLIC TOPICS**

Vice-Chairman read the District's established procedure for handling public topics set forth on each agenda as follows:

- A.** The Board will now conduct the public comment period for those who have notified the Secretary no later than 15 minutes prior to this meeting.
- B.** When the Chairman calls upon you, please stand and state your name/address and what you want the Board to consider.
- C.** As the Board conducts essential business at this meeting, a 3-minute rule on all public comments has been established. Please do not expect the Board to answer any questions at this time.
- D.** Once the public comment public comment period ends the public will not be permitted to comment.

*Past Commissioner Gene Preston addressed the board and thanked all for their kindness, acts of love, and prayers during his brother Ken's illness and passing.*

**MOTION BY** Commissioner J. Maxwell, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Commissioner M. Beaty, To approve the regular 5/9/2023 meeting minutes.

*M. Beaty – yes, W. Bedford – yes, J. Maxwell – yes, W. Rickman – absent, M. Stolte – yes*  
*Carried*

**MOTION BY** Commissioner M. Beaty, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Commissioner J. Maxwell, To approve the regular 5/23/2023 meeting minutes.

*M. Beaty – yes, W. Bedford – yes, J. Maxwell – yes, W. Rickman – absent, M. Stolte – yes*  
*Carried*

## **Treasurer A. Hinds**

- Treasurer Hinds read the monthly financial report, detailing receipts, disbursements, exception report, budget summary, grants, and status of approved reserve account expenditures. The financial report is appended to these minutes.

**MOTION BY** Commissioner M. Beaty, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Commissioner J. Maxwell, To approve the monthly financial report as submitted by Treasurer Hinds.

*M. Beaty – yes, W. Bedford – yes, J. Maxwell – yes, W. Rickman – absent, M. Stolte – yes*  
*Carried*

**MOTION BY** Commissioner J. Maxwell, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Commissioner W. Bedford, To resolve to approve payment of voucher nos. 7609-7655 totaling \$92,784.47 as submitted by Treasurer Hinds and audited by the Board of Fire Commissioners on 6/27/2023.

*M. Beaty – yes, W. Bedford – yes, J. Maxwell – yes, W. Rickman – absent, M. Stolte – yes*  
*Carried*

Date	Sent
5/23/23	Sympathy card to Mary Carmel (Lakeshore FD) on the passing of her husband John
6/5/23	Welcome baby card to Lt. T. Sullivan and family
6/6/23	Edible arrangement to the Preston family
6/8/23	Sympathy card to the Preston family on the passing of Past Commissioner Ken Preston and flowers to the funeral home.
6/21/23	Incident Report to Renee Lipa for 46 Logans Run on 6/17/23
6/26/23	Incident Report to Becky Sanita for Vehicle fire at 26 Fairway Drive on 6/12/23

Date	Received
5/11/23	FOIL Request from J. Camiolo for 5/9/23 Draft Minutes- receipt sent 5/11/23, he was able to download them himself.
5/22/23	Medical Records Request for Steven Chatterton from Casex
6/16/23	FOIL to start request for PCR from Kathy Ferger for her son
6/20/23	Foil for fire report 26 Fairway Dr. 6/12/23 from Becky Sanita
6/20/23	FOIL for Incident report at 46 Logans Run 6/17/23 incident with tree branches falling on roof from Renee Lippa

**Secretary K. Dutton**

- A discussion was held on SOP 1002 and whether or not to add a section on decorum at public meetings. Our attorney suggested that it is not necessary.
- There was a discussion on whether to add a section in our election policy regarding assigned poll watchers. It is not necessary to restate the law.

**MOTION BY** Commissioner W. Bedford, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Commissioner M. Stolte, To approve the updates to SOP's 2008 Reporting of Injuries and 1415 Email, new SOP's 3025 Extended Stretch Operations and 3026 High-Rise Operations, and the removal of 2008A as it is now in ESO.

*M. Beaty – yes, W. Bedford – yes, J. Maxwell – yes, W. Rickman – absent, M. Stolte – yes*  
*Carried*

**MOTION BY** Commissioner M. Beaty, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Commissioner M. Stolte to approve spending up to \$1500 for the custom wall quote for the board room.

*M. Beaty – yes, W. Bedford – yes, J. Maxwell – yes, W. Rickman – absent, M. Stolte – yes*  
*Carried*

**Treasurer/IT A. Hinds**

- There was a discussion regarding officers in charge of budget line items being allowed to purchase. The Treasurer will modify the procurement SOP to reflect the discussion outcome.

**MOTION BY** Commissioner J. Maxwell, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Commissioner M. Stolte, To amend 2023.7000.4.01.03 line 12: Chief Sam DeRosa Credit Limit \$5,000 (change name to Kevin Battaglia), Deputy Chief Kevin Battaglia Credit Limit \$5,000 (change name to Joseph Lissow).

*M. Beaty – yes, W. Bedford – yes, J. Maxwell – yes, W. Rickman – absent, M. Stolte – yes*  
*Carried*

**MOTION BY** Commissioner W. Bedford, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Commissioner J. Maxwell, To amend motion 2023.7000.4.01.03 to include NY Muni Trust to our list of allowed depositories contingent upon a discussion with our auditors.

*M. Beaty – yes, W. Bedford – yes, J. Maxwell – yes, W. Rickman – absent, M. Stolte – yes*  
*Carried*

**Administrator T. Gretzinger-No Report**

**Deputy Chief K. Battaglia**

- We have had 1,631 calls year to date, with 54% of those calls being EMS.
- All were thanked for assisting with Ken's funeral. Everyone worked together.
- We will be assisting the Town of Greece along with Monroe Ambulance and the other Greece Fire Districts for the July 4 celebration.
- Engine 273 has been delayed 6 weeks due to part issues. It should arrive at the end of September.

**Commissioner M. Beaty**

- Work has begun on the training grounds inside renovations.

- Met with Passero on the station 3 feasibility study draft.
- Verizon has inquired about a cell tower proposal for the south end of station 1.

**Commissioner W. Bedford**

- We held a planning meeting on a new ladder truck a few weeks ago. He was very impressed by the committee. They would like to get away from electronic gadgets and keep it simple. Commissioners have been involved from the beginning, which has made this process much smoother with no surprises.

**Commissioner J. Maxwell-No Report**

**Commissioner M. Stolte**

- A Health and Safety meeting was held today. The accident in Barnard was reviewed. They are also looking at doing screenings for the firefighters. Cost would be approximately \$25,000, but we are trying to work with Benecare and Excellus to see if our healthcare would cover it for those who have district insurance.
- A meeting was held with other Greece Town Fire Commissioners to discuss the future of volunteers. The idea of training together was well received. We will meet again in September. Tax rates in the town were also discussed.

**MOTION BY** Commissioner M. Stolte, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Commissioner M. Beaty, To promote Kevin Battaglia to the position of Fire Chief effective July 1, 2023, with the salary of \$144,765.00

*M. Beaty – yes, W. Bedford – yes, J. Maxwell – yes, W. Rickman – absent, M. Stolte – yes*  
*Carried*

**Chairman W. Rickman-necessarily absent**

**MOTION BY** Commissioner W. Bedford, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Commissioner M. Beaty, To move to executive session to discuss matters relating to personnel hiring/firing at 6:59 PM

*M. Beaty – yes, W. Bedford – yes, J. Maxwell – yes, W. Rickman – absent, M. Stolte – yes*  
*Carried*

**MOTION BY** Commissioner MS, MB, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Commissioner, To resolve to adjourn the regular meeting at 8:14 p.m.

*M. Beaty – yes, W. Bedford – yes, J. Maxwell – yes, W. Rickman – absent, M. Stolte – yes*  
*Carried*

Respectfully submitted,

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