

**NORTH GREECE FIRE DISTRICT
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
1766 Latta Road Station #2
2/13/2024**

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

ABSENT: Commissioner Mike Beaty (on video but did not vote)

PUBLIC: Mike Lapinski, Joe Camiolo, Director Sherman Manchester, Firefighters S. Carter, S. Ancker, M. Baxter, S. Bagley

The Chairman called the public hearing to order 5:55 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. The regular meeting commenced at 6:00 PM.

Public comment regarding the adoption of 466-a allowing spouses of 20-year members to participate in the tax reduction program:

- Sheman Manchester, representing the board of directors: Department membership is in favor of the proposal.
- Joe Camiolo commented on the notice on the web page for this hearing.

MOTION BY Commissioner M. Stolte, 2nd by Commissioner J. Maxwell, To close the public hearing at 5:59 PM.

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

The regular meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM.

PUBLIC TOPICS

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

- A.** The Board will now conduct a 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.
- Mike Lapinski from the Hilton Fire Department and current President of the FASNY firemen's home was tasked by FASNY to ask some questions of the board: How many volunteers does N. Greece have on the rolls? We currently have 16 exterior firefighters and 4 fire police (20 total. Six came in the past year.) We will have Interviews of new candidates in March. We do not plan on being fully paid in the future. 2% money goes to the Exempts. A cost study by the NY State Resolution Economics on the amount saved by volunteer districts was referenced. Not accounting for paid personnel, 4.7 billion dollars was saved by volunteers last year state-wide. (WRGB TV did the story.) If all NY fire districts were paid it would cost \$8.17 billion dollars for the initial investment and taxes would go up significantly. He also asked if we participated in LOSAP. We do.

MOTION BY Commissioner J. Maxwell, 2nd by Commissioner W. Rickman, To approve the 1/2/2024 organization meeting minutes.

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

MOTION BY Commissioner W. Rickman, 2nd by Commissioner J. Maxwell, To approve the regular 1/9/2024 meeting minutes.

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

MOTION BY Commissioner W. Bedford, 2nd by Commissioner J. Maxwell, To approve the regular 1/23/2024 meeting minutes.

M. Beaty – absent, W. Bedford – yes, J. Maxwell – yes, W. Rickman – yes, 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 monthly financial report is appended to these minutes.

MOTION BY Commissioner J. Maxwell, 2nd by Commissioner W. Rickman, To approve the monthly financial report as submitted by Treasurer Hinds.

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

MOTION BY Commissioner, 2nd by Commissioner, To resolve to approve payment of bills listed on the abstract of vouchers totaling \$ 75,663.61 as submitted by Treasurer Hinds and audited by the Board of Fire Commissioners on 2/13/2024.

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

Date	Sent
2/7/24	Baby Card to the Galka family
2/9/24	Steven Chatterton PCR to Barclay Damon
Date	Received
2/21/24	Thank you note from the Canisteo Volunteer Fire and Ambulance Dept. for the equipment donated to the following: Canisteo, Greenwood, Bradford, North Hornell, Fremont, Howard, and Troupsburg.
2/8/2024	PCR Request for Steven Chatterton from Barclay Damon.

Secretary K. Dutton

Treasurer/IT A. Hinds

- Telephone service update: We have moved away from Spectrum and are using Clearly which should save us more than \$500 per month. The server should be replaced this year.

2024.6000.1.02.13

MOTION BY Commissioner M. Stolte, 2nd by Commissioner J. Maxwell, To declare surplus the following computer equipment PC120 through PC-128, PC-134 through PC-138, PC-149, Two mini-PCs with no asset numbers, and a bunk room TV.

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

2024.4000.1.02.13

MOTION BY Commissioner M. Stolte, 2nd by Commissioner W. Rickman, To allow A. Hinds to attend NYGFOA training conference in Albany, NY April 16-19, 2024 with a cost not to exceed \$1800.

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

- Our independent auditors will attend the next meeting of the board to review the 2023 audit for the board.
- We received the check for taxes from the town yesterday. Our government representative at the band also had the funds released quickly.
- This is the 3rd year our vehicle plan has been in place. It has been revised to lower the annual allotment for vehicles due to cost and life expectancy. A truck for the mechanic is in the new plan. It will be our vehicle, so the cost has not been split between the two districts. Spreading the cost over the years will happen by using reserve funds. Appended to these minutes.
- It was suggested to have one capital/equipment reserve rather than separate accounts.

2024.8000.5.02.13

MOTION BY Commissioner W. Bedford, 2nd by Commissioner M. Stolte, To transfer the remaining balance of the Capital Reserve for Communications to the Capital Reserve for Equipment.

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

2024.8000.6.02.13

MOTION BY Commissioner M. Stolte, 2nd by Commissioner J. Maxwell, To transfer \$547,750 from the Unrestricted Fund Balance to the Capital Reserve for Equipment as planned in the 2024 Budget.

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

- Municipal Solutions bond repayment schedule options were presented to the board.

Administrator T. Gretzinger

2024.8000.7.02.13

MOTION BY Commissioner W. Rickman, 2nd by Commissioner W. Bedford,

WHEREAS, the District's Board of Commissioners wishes to adopt the provisions of Section 466-a of the Real Property Tax Law which would grant a partial exemption from fire district taxes for real property situated in the District and owned by eligible enrolled members of an incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department or incorporated volunteer ambulance service or by such enrolled member and spouse residing in the North Greece Fire District; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners duly held a public hearing on February 13, 2024, with respect to the question of whether the District should adopt a resolution providing the partial exemption authorized by Section 466-a of the Real Property Tax Law.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:

1. That that the Board of Commissioners, after having given the public an opportunity to be heard at a public hearing, hereby adopts the provisions of Section 466-a of the Real Property Tax Law, and hereby provides to eligible enrolled members of an incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department or incorporated voluntary ambulance service or such eligible enrolled member and spouse residing within the District, a partial tax exemption from fire district taxes, to the extent of 10% of the assessed value of the property.

2. That each incorporated volunteer fire company or fire department within the District shall file a notice annually with the Assessor of each Town in Monroe County where the District is located, certifying its enrolled members with two (2) or more years of service, and listing the number of years of service served by each such enrolled member together with the enrolled member's residence address. The certification shall provide the required information as of the taxable status date for each year (*i.e.*, March 1).
3. That the Board of Commissioners further adopts the provision of such law that grants eligible enrolled members of an incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department or incorporated voluntary ambulance service who accrue more than twenty (20) years of active service, as certified by the appropriate authority, the 10% exemption, as set forth above, for the remainder of his/her life as long as his/her primary residence is located within the District.
4. That the Board of Commissioners further adopts the provision of such law that grants eligible enrolled members of an incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department or incorporated voluntary ambulance service who are killed in the line of duty, to such deceased enrolled member's un-remarried spouse; provided, however, that:
 - a. such un-remarried spouse is certified by the authority having jurisdiction for the incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department, or incorporated voluntary ambulance service as an un-remarried spouse of an enrolled member of such incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department or incorporated voluntary ambulance service who was killed in the line of duty.
 - b. such deceased volunteer had been an enrolled member for at least five years; and
 - c. such deceased volunteer had been receiving the exemption prior to his/her death.
5. That the Board of Commissioners further adopts the provision of such law that grants eligible enrolled members of an incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department or incorporated voluntary ambulance service who are deceased, to such deceased enrolled member's un-remarried spouse; provided, however, that:
 - a. such un-remarried spouse is certified by the authority having jurisdiction for the incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department, or incorporated voluntary ambulance service as an un-remarried spouse of a deceased enrolled member of such incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department or incorporated voluntary ambulance service; and
 - b. such deceased member had been an enrolled member for at least twenty (20) years; and
 - c. such deceased volunteer and un-remarried spouse had been receiving the exemption for such property prior to the death of such volunteer.
6. That it shall be the responsibility of each eligible enrolled member of an incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department or incorporated volunteer ambulance service seeking such exemption to file any required application for such exemption with the Assessor before the taxable status date as may be required by the Assessor.
7. That this partial tax exemption shall apply to assessment rolls prepared on the basis of taxable status dates occurring on or after January 1, 2024.

On roll call vote, the following vote was recorded:

AYES: Commissioners J. Maxwell, W. Rickman, W. Bedford, M. Stolte

NAYES: None.

ABSENT: M. Beaty.

Fire Chief K. Battaglia

- We have responded to 464 calls year-to-date, 59% of those calls were EMS.
- March 8 an officer class will be held at station 1. We are partnered with workforce Development from MCC called Difficult Conversations.
- A Health and safety meeting was held today. A personal trainer came in to show all groups how to use all workout equipment based on the results from our survey.

2024.6000.2.02.13

MOTION BY Commissioner W. Rickman, 2nd by Commissioner J. Maxwell, To surplus old Holmatro equipment (twin hose), we will attempt to auction it off first and then donate if he needed.

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

- We worked very hard with our grant writer. Everything is on hold as everything kept getting a lower priority than what would be awarded. He will reimburse us for the deposit, and we will try again in the fall. The process changes every year.
- There has been an uptick in EMS due to fall calls. Really good feedback that we are having a direct impact on the community in helping with these calls.

Deputy Chief J. Lissow

- Lt's Healey and Castronovo are registered for first line supervisor's training in NYC starting May 13 pending state approval. It's a 2-week program. Lt. Young is to go next.
- An asset inventory/management project has begun. A. Hinds and DC Lissow have begun the planning. Officers in charge of their areas were tasked with inventory of their area. Others will be involved such as building inventory with Gary. This is part of the larger multi-year plan.
- Monroe County will be providing mobile data terminals for 6 vehicles. We would be responsible for some of the brackets and installation. This will replace our iPad in the first two rigs and the battalion chief vehicle. We will have 911 CAD in our vehicles. This will streamline some things we currently have issues with. It will calm radio traffic. The districts will be working together. Should hear in a month or two regarding our request. They can pick the closest unit which will be helpful.

Atty. Ray DiRaddo

- There was discussion on whether a referendum was needed to move from one Reserve fund to another.
- There was a discussion regarding the use of a repair reserve.

2024.1000.2.02.13

SEQRA RESOLUTION
ENGLISH ROAD FIRE STATION #3 REDEVELOPMENT

WHEREAS The Board of Fire Commissioners of the North Greece Fire District ("The Board") desires to undertake a project consisting of demolition of the existing 5,300 +/- square foot, 1-story, 2-bay (high bay) fire station located at 2030 English Road in the Town of Greece, Monroe County and removal of the existing 21 +/- space surface parking lot to construct a new, modern, 2-story, 2-bay (high bay), 10,100 +/- square foot fire station and a 20 +/- space accessory parking area. The project includes a new concrete driveway for access to the fire truck bays; a new asphalt parking area for employees, including handicapped parking spaces and EV charging stations, a dumpster area, and site lighting and landscaping; and

WHEREAS, As part of the project the Board is to conduct an environmental review for the above action,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board as part of its compliance with the State Environmental Quality Review Act, (SEQRA) Article 8, NYS Environmental Conservation Law, and the implementing regulations set forth in Title 6 NYCRR Part 617, that.

1. The North Greece Fire District as the only involved agency, and such is the lead agency for this action and project. Any determination by the North Greece Fire District shall be binding on all Interested agencies, if any, pursuant to 6NYCRR 617.6 (b)(3)(iii).
2. The Board will complete, review and execute the Environmental Assessment Form (SEAF) Part 1, which will note that Larkin Creek is a federal wetland (Stream 847-592, Classification C), which runs north-south along the east property line of the subject property. The SEAF Part 1 will attach a National Wetland Inventory (NWI) map, and a NYSDEC Wetland map.
3. The Chairman of the North Greece Fire District Board of Fire Commissioners is authorized to execute any and all documents necessary to comply with SEQRA.

This resolution is made pursuant to 6 NYCRR 617. 6 (b) (2) (i).and pursuant to the following vote of the Board of Fire Commissioners.

North Greece Fire District Board of Fire Commissioners

William Rickman, Chairman	Voting Yes
Walter Bedford, Commissioner	Voting Yes
Mihael Beaty	Absent
Mark Stolte	Voting Yes
James Maxwell	Voting Yes

Commissioner M. Beaty-necessarily absent

Commissioner W. Bedford

- Miscellaneous town and county tax bills need to be requested from the county as .pdf and distributed to the board.

Commissioner J. Maxwell

- The Chief was thanked for all the work on the grants.
- The AFDSNY training for new commissioners was very worthwhile.

Commissioner W. Rickman

- Commissioners Stolte and Rickman met with the four administrative staff today. There are currently no issues, and the board is pleased with their work.

Chairman M. Stolte

- All board members are satisfied with the commissioner responsibilities list.
- Health & Safety:
 - One employee has recovered from an eye injury.
 - The MTO vehicle accident was reviewed. No further action is being taken.
 - OSHA status, fit testing, nutrition, quarterly issues, EAP were all discussed.
 - Cancer screening has been received well and started this week.
 - CPR training for staff was discussed.

MOTION BY Commissioner M. Stolte, 2nd by Commissioner J. Maxwell, To move to executive session to discuss matters related to personnel hiring/firing at 6:53 PM.

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

MOTION BY Commissioner M. Stolte, 2nd by Commissioner W. Rickman, To resolve to adjourn the regular meeting at 7:35 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,

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