

**Highland Fire District  
Regular Meeting  
March 12, 2024  
7:00 pm – St #1**

Commissioners:	Stephen DiLorenzo	(PRESENT)
	Christian Erichsen	(ABSENT)
	Alan Barone	(PRESENT)
	Kevin Rizzo	(PRESENT)
	PJ Roloson	(PRESENT)
Chief	Peter D. Miller	(PRESENT)
Treasurer	James Passikoff	(PRESENT)
District Secretary	Leslie B. Benson	(PRESENT)

Chairman DiLorenzo called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 PM, led the salute to the flag, and asked for a moment of silence. Chairman DiLorenzo welcomed everyone to the Board of Fire Commissioners regular meeting and welcomed Mr. Phil DeAngelo from Focused Wealth Management.

1. **Focused Wealth Management** – Phil stated we had a great year and are 97% funded. Over the past 14 months it has been up 20% and is a good move for portfolio. The contribution goes down this year, we should keep funding and should be 100% funded in 2-3 years. There were a lot of payouts in 2022. The markets differ, guarantee rates are up and interest is on the rise. He distributed to the board an Analysis of Investment Positions – LOSAP through 2/29/24 and discussed the Executive Summary.  
If anyone has any additional questions, please contact him.

2. **Approval of Minutes:**

Chairman DiLorenzo asked for approval of the minutes for February 12, 2024

**Motion:** Commissioner Roloson moved to approve minutes February 12, 2024 regular meeting seconded by Commissioner Rizzo.

Vote: 3 Yes    0 No    1 Abstain (Steve DiLorenzo)    1 Absent (Chris Erichsen)

Motion was carried.

3. **Authorization to Pay bills:**

Chairman DiLorenzo asked for approval to pay the bills as reviewed by Commissioners Chris Erichsen, Alan Barone, and Chief Peter Miller, on Monday, March 11, 2024 totaling \$106,619.57 for 2/26/2024 – 3/12/2024.

Motion: Commissioner Rizzo moved to approve payment of the abstract of bills totaling \$106,619.57, seconded by Commissioner Roloson.

Vote: 4 Yes    0 No    0 Abstain    1 Absent (Chris Erichsen)

Motion was carried.

4. **Correspondence:**

Received Certificate of Liability insurance from Nuvance Health on 3/1/24 for Car Seat check event on 4/27/24. The hours will be 10am – 3PM. They are working on a flyer and will email.

Firefly annual report was received along with annual report transmittal letter, highlights & audit footnote were distributed for commissioner's review. There is information on a resolution for actuarial equivalence that is proposed to HFD to consider next month.

Fire District Affairs was distributed as well as electronic copy emailed to all Commissioners

Letter received from Central Hudson offering training

Received letter from E-One safety recall NHTSA recall for 31-11, that was completed today.

Red Cross Blood Drive is Friday, March 15, 2024 from 12-5PM

Association of Fire Districts - Proposed AFDSNY By-law amendments were received.

M&T Bank information on CD's.

Rotary Club Golf Outing is Friday, May 10, 2024 at Applegreens Golf Course.

#### **Room Requests:**

Request from John J. Valentino (Life Member) requesting room on March 24, 2024 for approximately 30 people for a private party from 12-4PM.

An email vote was conducted for this request and approved

Vote: 5 Yes    0 No    0 Abstain    0 Absent

Request from Ulster County Volunteer Fire Police Association, monthly meeting, May 8, 2024 from 6:45PM-9:00PM, approximately 20 members requested by Mike DePaola.

Motion: Commissioner Kevin Rizzo moved to approve this request for Ulster County Volunteer Fire Police Association seconded by Commissioner PJ Roloson.

Vote: 4 Yes    0 No    0 Abstain    1 Absent (Chris Erichsen)

Motion carried.

#### **5. Committee Reports:**

Building and Grounds St 1 - Commissioners Barone and Roloson

Re-Key of District Office(s) – Commissioner DiLorenzo received keys/cores to tighten up admittance in the commissioner's area.

Seal Coating – On hold - reviewing patching, sealing, or resealing.

HVAV – Audio installed on 2/14/24. It is better – it was not installed as discussed.

IT Report – Laptop/computer monitor is needed for Leslie. We have requested 3 quotes with approximate cost of \$2000. - \$3000. She needs a decent laptop. UPS is adequate – move wires, will request \$4000.00.

**Building and Grounds St 2 - Commissioners Erichsen and Rizzo**

Siren: Chief Miller said the consensus of the 4 present as he had a conversation with Mike Schaeffer and the committee met. The no cost option was to shut siren off with caveat. Shut siren off, revisit after September 1 or if technology grants.

Motion: Commissioner Barone moved to move forward with committees' recommendation, add a pull station and to revisit after September 1 or if technology grants seconded by Commissioner Roloson.

Vote: 4 Yes 0 No 0 Abstain 1 Absent (Chris Erichsen)

Motion carried.

Commissioner DiLorenzo will contact A&R Security to set up a meeting with A&R and Commissioner Erichsen.

New Paltz Rescue – Is looking for space to park an ambulance and use facilities. Chairman DiLorenzo will discuss temporary arrangements and set up a meeting with New Paltz Rescue and Commissioner Erichsen.

Capital Project Update – Priority is the addition of Station #2, additional bays, upgrade bathrooms – Next meeting is March 26, 2024 at 7PM to discuss taking the next steps to expand St #2, discuss a timeline, plan, and RFP for design team as this will be a significant project. The Board of Fire Commissioners agreed to expand St 2, by adding additional bays, barring impossibilities.

Concrete – The concrete was donated and can be returned in April.

**6. New Membership: None**

**7. Insurance/Workers Compensation: (Commissioners Barone and DiLorenzo)**

We increased agreed value on the vehicles effective 3/1/2024 for \$1939.00. We paid the insurance bill for worker's compensation that is based on the population with realistic number of 8000-10000 in the Highland Fire District.

**8. Service Awards: We received an update/presentation from Phil DeAngelo. No room to increase benefits.**

**9. Treasurer Report: Treasurer Jim Passikoff presented December 31, 2023 FINAL Board Report and indicated this had changed significantly from January's meeting. He also prepared February 29, 2024 board report. There was nothing in expenses that were concerning, repairs and maintenance be careful. Keep in mind during budget time, to put more money into repairs and maintenance. All tax money from the town is received and they are paying in 25% quarterly installments for rent.**

The 1.6 Million CD matures on 4/1/24. He will figure out cash needs and open another CD. He will check on interest rates on the CD's.

Chairman DiLorenzo asked for a motion to approve financial reports – December 31, 2023 FINAL Board Report and February 29, 2024.

Motion: Commissioner Kevin Rizzo moved to approve both financial reports, seconded by Commissioner Alan Barone.

Vote: 4 Yes 0 No 0 Abstain 1 Absent (Chris Erichsen)  
Motion carried.

Payroll Service - Jim advised PayChexs will be coming this month to start April 1, 2024.

#### **10. Chief's Report:**

- 3/16/24 - SCBA certification with Milton Engine with 39-10, will request 31-35
- 3/16/24 – Highland will be covering for Clintondale from 5pm – 5AM for structure fires, accidents with 31-35 responding.
- 3/21/24 – Ulster County Chief/Commissioners meeting, all commissioners are asked to attend.
- 3/21/24 – Company Training with New Paltz Rescue
- 3/25/24 – Duty Night
- 3/27/24 – Engine to Ulster Hose/Training Center for Firefighter 2 Class (31-12)

Truck Repairs:

Camera on 31-45 needs fixing

Steering on 31-11 – was done sooner than expected

Front tires for 31-60, will check on rear

Compliance – recommends a training program and ISO requests make up on drills. We have offered Bail Out and SCBA makeups.

#### **11. Old Business-**

Highland is hosting the County Commissioners/Chiefs meeting on 3/21/24. Commissioner Erichsen is heading up, Hose Company will help with set up.

Work out Room – Couple of changes

Assemblymember Jacobson donation – we received 25% of the donation and Leslie completed the voucher process.

5/4/24 – Commissioner Training –Commissioners DiLorenzo, Rizzo and Roloson attending.

#### **12. New Business:**

Garone's – Snowplow invoice – Commissioner DiLorenzo had a meeting with Mike, we agreed on the rate, his plowing rates are very reasonable. It was discussed, Salting will be done upon request.

Contribution towards 2023-2024 Annual Installation Banquet

Motion: Commissioner Rizzo moved to approve \$5000.00 contribution towards 2023-2024 Annual Installation Banquet, seconded by Commissioner Roloson.

Vote: 4 Yes 0 No 0 Abstain 1 Absent (Chris Erichsen)

Motion carried.

Laptop/computer/monitor purchase and allocating up to \$4,000.00

Motion: Commissioner Rizzo moved to approve \$4,000.00 to purchase laptop, computer, monitor seconded by Commissioner Roloson

Vote: 4 Yes 0 No 0 Abstain 1 Absent (Chris Erichsen)

Motion carried.

Request for 31-35 on 3/16/24 at Ulster Training Center for drill

Motion: Commissioner Barone moved to approve 31-35 for training on 3/16/24 seconded by Commissioner Rizzo

Vote: 4 Yes 0 No 0 Abstain 1 Absent (Chris Erichsen)

Motion carried.

Request for 31-12 on 3/27/24 at Ulster Hose/Training Center for Firefighter 2 Class

Motion: Commissioner Rizzo moved to approve 31-12 for Firefighter 2 class on 3/27/24 seconded by Commissioner Roloson

Vote: 4 Yes 0 No 0 Abstain 1 Absent (Chris Erichsen)

Motion carried.

**13. Liaison to Town – Not present****14. Public Comment**

Any topic may be addressed except for personnel or specific Board Member issues.

The Highland Fire District Board encourages public participation at its meetings. To allow for efficiency in conducting meetings and to give each speaker a fair opportunity to present their views, the following shall apply to the public speaking portion of the agenda.

- Each Speaker shall state their name;
- Each Speaker shall be limited to a time (approximately 3 minutes) which is agreed upon by the Board;
- The Board will not permit discussion involving individual personnel.
- Direct all remarks to the chair. Community members may not poll individual Board Members nor debate with other community members in attendance.

Once again, members of the community are encouraged to attend and speak during public comments. Undue interruption or other interference with the orderly conduct of the Board of business will not be allowed. Defamatory or abusive remarks are always out of order. While individuals have the right to email the District Secretary with questions or concerns at any time, the Board will not read emails aloud during the public participation portion of the meeting.

**COMMENTS:**

Jim Balint, President of the Highland Hose Company thanked Jim Passikoff for his service.

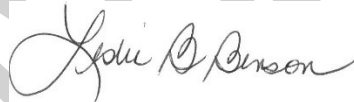
**15. Executive Session:**

Motion: Commissioner Roloson moved to go into executive session at 8:33 PM with Chief Miller and Assistant Chief DiMetro for discussion regarding the medical, financial, credit or employment history of a particular person or corporation, or matters leading to the appointment, employment, promotion, demotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal, or removal of a particular person or corporation;

**16. Adjournment:** Meeting was adjourned at 9:15 PM and did not return to business.

Vote: 4 Yes      0 No      0 Abstain      1 Absent

Respectfully submitted



Leslie B. Benson  
District Secretary

APPROVED BOFC 4-10-24