

Port Ewen Fire Commissioners Meeting

Date: March 7th, 2023

Location: Port Ewen Fire Department Headquarters

Roll Call (X = Present)

<u>X</u> 5yr Scott Sammons	<u>X</u> Chief Clark R. Mains	Floor:
<u>X</u> 4yr Roger Boughton	<u>X</u> Asst. Roger Brandt	<u>F. Banks</u> _____
<u>X</u> Appt. A.E. Stokes	<u>X</u> Asst. Mike Lange	<u>J. Lamb</u> _____
<u>X</u> 2yr William McNamara	<u>X</u> Asst. Joseph Mains	_____
<u>X</u> 1yr David Brechter		_____
<u>X</u> Sec’y Mike Dauner		_____
<u>X</u> Treas. Wendy Trojak		_____

Meeting was called to order by: Chairman Sammons at 19:30 hours.

Minutes: Additions/Corrections to the previous month’s meeting(s): None. Motion to accept minutes was made by Commissioner Brechter 2nd by Commissioner A.E. Stokes. 4ok motion carried.

Treasurer’s Report – Treasurer’s report read by Treasurer Trojak. Motion to accept Treasurer’s report was made by Commissioner Brechter 2nd by Commissioner A.E. Stokes. 4ok motion carried.

District Vouchers were presented and were audited by the Commissioners in attendance.

1. Herzog’s Voucher in amount of \$6.26 is department bill and will be forwarded to them.
2. Treasurer is receiving check for Begnal back from Commissioner Boughton who advised Begnal is waiving bill.
3. Received check from Department for Banquet reimbursement.
4. Treasurer advised that currently checks being written for the firehouse account require they be handwritten. With the increase in checks expected once the project gets going, she may get checks like the general account where she can electronically fill out.
5. At the December 2022 meeting, the 2022 Fire Equipment reserve line was authorized to be used to purchase SCBA cylinders in 2023 and gear and uniforms were authorized to be paid with 2022 monies once they were received. Treasurer made the payments for gear and equipment as requested and will allocate fire equipment line as authorized. The remaining balance of \$62,980.83 will be split between LOSAP Plan payment and Apparatus Reserve as previously approved. Upon confirmation by the board, the PILOT monies received for 2022 in 2023 will be kept in the 2023 General Fund.

Correspondence/Communications:

Secretary Dauner:

1. Proposed by-law changes for AFDSNY at their May meeting were received and were given to Commissioner Sammons who will be attending the meeting.
2. AFDSNY newsletter was received and can be accessed via the member portal.
3. Completed Monroe County Balancing Test Paperwork was received from Hannigan Law Firm and is on file.
4. SAM.Gov renewal paperwork was received showing it's been updated.
5. Letter was sent to all members advising they must complete their annual physical by October 1st.

Unfinished Business:

Commissioner Stokes:

1. Previously discussed placing a sign at the firehouse property identifying the new location of the firehouse. After discussion, **a motion was made by Commissioner Stokes, 2nd Commissioner Brechter to purchase a sign from Mike LaManna in amount of \$150 and the related mounting hardware and lumber to install. 4ok motion carried.** Several offered to assist in installing.
2. Urinal handle at Headquarters was repaired by Lowe's Plumbing at no charge.

Commissioner Sammons:

1. Commissioner Sammons spoke with Lowe Plumbing on Sta #1 heat repair. We cannot hold payment on repair however Lowe will come at no charge to check and if a quick repair will complete it however, if a large expense Lowe will quote. Heaters are very old from the 1980's and there is no warranty on work already done. The Lowe quote once received can be compared to Rycor quote received.

Secretary Dauner:

1. Secretary and Assistant Chief Lange spoke with a supervisor from Spectrum on site to discuss what needed to be done for a switchover a month ago and has not heard anything since until today when he received a call from Spectrum wanting to switch over internet only at Sta #1. He advised Spectrum again unless all work could be done at same time and properly coordinated it should not be completed piecemeal. Secretary has updated the contact information with Spectrum for the department's main number and he is no longer going to work on the switchover. His recommendation is to leave as is until we move to the new building and if anyone on the board or otherwise wishes to pursue the project, he will have a folder with all the information available. There was no interest in pursuing by the board at this time.
2. An Executive Session will be needed tonight on ongoing litigation.
3. Secretary advised that all contracts with Safeco are in progress and switchover will occur shortly.
4. Addressed the matter of the NYS Sexual Harassment training again regarding members who have been suspended and have not provided the training. The board with the district's attorney advising same has stated in the past that the member(s) suspended have

an open-ended suspension until they provide proof of training at which time they will be automatically reinstated. Discussion followed. A motion was made by Commissioner Sammons, 2nd Commissioner Stokes to have members suspended for failure to provide NYS Sexual Harassment Training appear before the board in a hearing to discuss their suspension and take action on the suspension. The matter was discussed and Commissioner Sammons ultimately rescinded his motion. After further discussion, the board concurred on the matter and stated that suspended members will remain suspended indefinitely until they provide proof of training and cannot be on firehouse grounds while suspended including attending department meetings.

New Business:

Commissioner Stokes:

1. Commissioner Stokes addressed use of the Headquarters Hall for functions and reviewed the Hall Usage Rules & Regulations. Copies were provided to board members and Commissioner Sammons stated he liked the idea of someone keeping track of hall rentals. Application will be updated and provided on rentals. Chief Mains asked if the hall can be rented to non-profits and the Commissioner Brechter stated the non-profit should have a member bring up the rental and act as a liaison.

Commissioner Sammons:

1. Is requesting to be authorized to attend the AFDSNY Conference this May in Verona. **A motion was made by Commissioner Brechter, 2nd Commissioner Stokes authorizing Commissioner Sammons to attend the AFDSNY Conference in Verona in May and ne reimbursed expenses in the amount of \$883.44. 4ok motion carried.**

Commissioner Boughton joined the meeting at this time. All future motions reflect five Commissioners.

Secretary Dauner:

1. Secretary Dauner reviewed with the board several recommendations and quotes on Insurance which were provided by Marshall & Sterling at the recent renewal meeting Secretary Dauner attended. Secretary Dauner discussed the recommendation of a death benefit increase for the Accidental Death & Dismemberment Policy and it's benefits if accepted. After discussion, **a motion was made by Commissioner Boughton, 2nd Commissioner Stokes to increase the Death Benefit on the Fire District Accidental Death & Dismemberment Policy to \$200,000 for an annual increase of \$556 to a total premium of \$2,107. Vote: Commissioners' Sammons, McNamara, Boughton, Stokes – Yes. Commissioner Brechter – No. Motion carried.** Secretary stated that the accident & Sickness Policy does cover social members as well as Ladies Auxiliary.
2. Secretary Dauner stated he was previously authorized to use the hall this weekend however he was also requesting to use it on Saturday July 1st, 2023. Board had no objections.
3. Secretary addressed the need for a referendum to sell the existing firehouse buildings and discussed the need to authorize sales to fund the bonding and offset costs.

Chief's Report:

1. Tree clearing is being completed at the firehouse site. A meeting will be held next week with Senator Hinchey's office to try to secure grant funding. Chief is optimistic that at the next Planning Board meeting the district will obtain site plan approval.
2. St Patrick's Day Parade is March 12th and Chief is requesting two pieces of apparatus at the Chief's discretion. **A motion was made by Commissioner Brechter, 2nd Commissioner Stokes authorizing two pieces of apparatus at the Chief's discretion to attend the Kingston St. Patrick's Day Parade. 50k motion carried.**

From the Floor:

Joe Mains:

1. Hose testing will be scheduled for mid-June and he will let the board know the date next month.
2. Department would like to hold the annual bazaar on June 9th & 10th with beer and liquor on the district grounds. **A motion was made by Commissioner Brechter, 2nd Commissioner Boughton authorizing the Department to hold their annual bazaar on June 9th & 10th 2023 with beer and liquor on district grounds. 50k motion carried.**

Jim Lamb:

1. Inquired on the amount of escrow paid to the Planning Board and it's uses. Secretary Dauner advised that it is used towards the Planning Board's engineers and attorney and to date \$20,000 has been placed in escrow with over \$10,000 of which has been expended. The district has been provided receipts for money spent.

Frank Banks:

1. There has been parking on the grass on Hamilton Court against the district fence, he asked if the board wished to act on it or him? Commissioner Sammons stated he was going to place cones in front of the Sanford gate. After discussion, the board asked the Secretary to draft a letter to be placed on vehicles and work with Frank on the matter.

A motion was made by Commissioner McNamara, 2nd Commissioner Brechter to enter into executive session to discuss ongoing litigation in Halpin vs. Port Ewen Fire District. 50k motion carried. Secretary Dauner was asked to attend.

A motion was made by Commissioner Sammons, 2nd Commissioner McNamara to return from executive session. 50k motion carried. Meeting was informational only no motions were made.

A motion was made by Commissioner Sammons, 2nd Commissioner McNamara to enter into executive session to discuss personnel matters involving District Treasurer and Secretary. 5ok motion carried.

A motion was made by Commissioner Boughton, 2nd Commissioner McNamara to return from executive session. 5ok motion carried. No motions or decisions made.

Motion to adjourn made at 21:05 by Commissioner Brechter, 2nd by Commissioner Sammons. 5ok Motion Carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mike Dauner
District Secretary

Attachments:

1. Treasurer Report
2. Sam.Gov Annual Renewal Paperwork
3. Monroe County Balancing Test for Port Ewen Fire District
4. Annual Physical Letter for 2023
5. LOSAP Plan Documents for 2022 – 2023
6. Halpin vs. Fire District Litigation Paperwork to date March 2023