

STAMFORD JOINT FIRE DISTRICT

Minutes

October 15, 2024

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Stamford Joint Fire District was called to order at 7:00p.m. by Chairman Tim Powell.

Present were:

Tim Powell	x	Andrea Donaghy	x	Stamford Fire Chief Don VanEtten	x
Lucy Chichester	x	Dusty King	x	1 st Assistant Fire Chief AJ Vamosy	
Ellen Kennedy	x	Peter Pioppo	x	2 nd Assistant Fire Chief Joe Hornbeck	
		Bill Sharick	x	Stamford EMS Captain George Curbelo	x

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Opening of the 2025 budget hearing and referendum for the rescue truck.

The Minutes from the September meeting were read and approved – 1st motion by Bill, 2nd motion by Peter – none opposed.

Presentation of Bills

<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Ace Hardware	\$ 62.70
AT&T Mobility	\$ 229.38
Bound Tree	\$ 514.73
Critical tool	\$ 673.90
Delco Creative	\$ 431.00
Emergency Vehicles Inc	\$ 114,780.00
Gall's	\$ 20.00
Joe Hornbeck	\$ 568.21
King electric	\$ 17,639.49
KJBL Electronics	\$ 2,550.00
Margaretville Telephone	\$ 98.37
NYSIF Workers comp	\$ 1,742.22
Ricoh USA	\$ 21.02
The Daily Star	\$ 136.92
Village of Stamford	\$ 128.19
Waste Recovery Enterprises	\$ 28.00
Wells Fargo Vendor	
Financial	\$ 58.00
WEX Bank	\$ 903.39
	\$ 140,585.52

Approval of bills as presented – 1st motion by Bill, 2nd motion by Peter – none opposed.

Treasurer's Report - Bank account balances as of 10/1/2024:

Bank of Greene County Accounts

Checking Account	\$	626.41
General Fund Savings	\$	179,130.80
Apparatus Reserve Savings	\$	205,704.51
Repair Reserve Savings	\$	25,534.06
PPE Reserve	\$	0

- \$75,000 received from Robinson-Broadhurst foundation as first year payment for the rescue truck
- \$91,419 balance of roof funds are included in general fund savings

Privilege of the Floor

None at this time.

Reports / Requests from Fire Department Chiefs

- Chief Van Etten –
 - New member Olivia Tallon – emergency. Approved by the department at the last meeting. Approved – 1st motion by Peter, 2nd motion by Andrea – none opposed, pending clear background check.
 - Discussion about hi-band radio issues for Chief VanEtten and AJ Vamosy and consolidating their county coordinator and mobile radios. Cost would be \$1280.42 per + hand mic of \$1514.97 per (so can easily switch from county back and forth and hear two channels) = \$6140 with parts and installation by KJBL. Approved – 1st motion by Dusty, 2nd motion by Peter – none opposed.
- George –
 - Has been reviewing supplies, expiration dates and replenishing what is needed. Will need pediatric pads + miscellaneous supplies – total is \$332.98. Approved – 1st motion by Bill, 2nd motion by Dusty – none opposed.

Old Business

- Tim noted that the roof project has been totally completed!

New Business

- Tim's term for Commissioner is up at the end of this year – intends to run for another term.
- Reminder to all that elections are on December 10th. Polls are open 6:00pm-9:00pm and the regular monthly meeting starts at 7:00pm.

Commissioner Reports / Discussion

- Dusty –
 - Noted that he temporarily repaired the flag light outside – will need to be done again soon.
 - Noted regarding The Power Authority's main gate is the staging area if there were to be an incident. There are to be no privately owned vehicles at the scene.
 - Noted that Hunter FD has a shortage of manpower and would like for SFD to meet with them to discuss. Their village buildings are similar to Stamford village buildings and Hunter's backup is Catskill FD which is same/further away than SFD.
 - The Harpersfield solar farm is on hold for right now – more trees need to be removed and/or area needs to be assessed.
- Peter – noted 2711 waterway needs to be worked on and that will probably be a Spring 2025 project.
- Bill – he took time to read through the 2024 previous minutes and noted a few items are still open:
 - Portable radio from Jefferson FD – we still need to get that back.
 - The downspouts in the front of the firehouse need to be addressed before winter. We had water and icing issues last year.
 - Access Compliance and Well Now discussions – still pending more information.
 - Bill noted that the 911 signs are almost done. Need to do Town of Kortright backroads. Discussion about mapping inaccessible roads and driveways in our District and perhaps

making the County aware of the list for when dispatched + can add the location information in IAR program like do for hydrant locations.

- Discussion need interior firefighter gear and need to add Logan Wood to the listing.
- Discussion about ordering more reflective vests – Bill will find out who to place order through.
- Discussion about the purchase of one airpack per year as others age out.
- Discussion about need to order helmets – Chief VanEtten to speak with AJ.
- Noted he ordered the reflective winter coats and will coordinate with ONC BOCES/NCOC to have lettering done on jacket backs again this year.
- Noted the blue duty shirts are in from The Catskill Outpost.
- Discussion that Bill will use the numbers Chief VanEtten reports for monthly fire calls as the source on the website vs reviewing the incident sheets.
- Commissioner training for new electees – Dusty and Andrea still need to do. It was noted they can do on-line.
- Discussion about bunker pants – do not have a variety of sizes – bare bones on all turn out gear.
- Discussion about the installation of the windsock at the bus garage for LZ. Kenny King will be going out of town soon – will try to have him do before he leaves.
- Discussion about the new pagers – some members like them, some do not. Tim ordered program cradles to get things fixed for members.
- Andrea –
 - Letter of intent for more grants will be done and has a checklist she can share.
 - Discussion about Mallinckrodt matching grant option.
 - Has submitted a request to Firehouse Subs.
 - Has not heard back on any other grant requests that have been submitted.
 - Noted she will reach out to SFD Chiefs and BoD for numbers needed and prices for the equipment.
- Tim –
 - Noted the garage door openers have been installed and extra remotes have been ordered.
 - Discussion about the Town of Jefferson reaching out regarding Oorah Boys Camp seeking approvals to build a large pavilion on top of Misevis Mountain. The Town was seeking any input or comments from the District, but we should consult with our attorneys before issuing anything. Further discussion that the District would not issue any comment.
 - Discussion about Schoharie County ongoing ambulance issues and that Tim and Bill should meet with Alicia Terry at the Town of Gilboa to address. Perhaps include others in the discussion as well.
 - Discussion about having signed up for HGAC Buy contract for when the purchase of the new rescue comes closer – a note need to reference the account number on all correspondences.
 - Discussion that the Town of Harpersfield would like a list provided of SFD members who live in their town for the tax break purposes.

Other Business

- Nothing to report.

The 2025 budget hearing and referendum for the rescue truck closed at 8:35p.m.

Please see the following resolution:

**STAMFORD JOINT FIRE DISTRICT
RESOLUTION NO. 10/2024
OVERRIDE OF REAL PROPERTY TAX CAP FOR THE 2025 BUDGET**

WHEREAS, the Board of Fire Commissioners of the Stamford Joint Fire District must adopt a proposed budget for 2025 and estimate of fund balances in preparation for the annual fire district budget hearing and did so in preparation for the budget hearing, and

WHEREAS, the Board of Fire Commissioners of the Stamford Joint Fire District held the annual fire district budget hearing on notice to the public on October 15, 2024, and

WHEREAS, the Board has considered the proposed budget and comments received on the proposed budget on October 15, 2024 at said budget hearing, and

WHEREAS, the Board has determined that the financial needs of the fire district and fire department for fiscal year 2025 cannot be supported by a budget that would comply with the real property tax cap established pursuant to Section 3-c of the General Municipal Law as the proposed budget for 2025 calls for a real property tax levy that will exceed the real property tax cap permitting only a 2.00% increase in said tax levy; and

WHEREAS, Section 3-c of the General Municipal Law provides as follows:

A local government may adopt a budget that requires a tax levy that is greater than the tax levy limit for the coming fiscal year, not including any level necessary to support the expenditures pursuant to subparagraphs (i) through (iv) of paragraph g of subdivision two of this section, only if the governing body of such local government first enacts, by a vote of sixty percent of the total voting power of such body, a local law to override such limit for such coming fiscal year only, or in the case of a district or fire district, a resolution, approved by a vote of sixty percent of the total voting power of such body, to override such limit for such coming fiscal year only.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Fire Commissioners hereby approves a determination to override the real property tax cap for the 2025 budget to permit an annual real property tax levy that will exceed the real property tax cap with an increase in said tax levy over the two (2%) percent limit and result in a final annual fire district budget in the amount of \$322,000.00, and

The adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly put to a vote and upon roll call the vote was as follows:

Chairman Tim Powell	<u>Yes</u>
Commissioner Bill Sharick	<u>Yes</u>
Commissioner Andrea Donaghy	<u>Yes</u>
Commissioner Dusty King	<u>Yes</u>
Commissioner Pete Pioppo	<u>Yes</u>

The resolution was thereupon duly declared to have been adopted on Tuesday, October 15, 2024.

Discussion also that a resolution will be needed for the new chassis after it has been determined that there was no water damage while it was being housed in Florida during the recent Hurricane Helene. 1st motion by Dusty, 2nd motion by Peter – none opposed.

Meeting adjourned at 8:37p.m.

Respectfully,

Ellen Kennedy
District Secretary