

FIRE ISLAND PINES FIRE DISTRICT
COMMISSIONER MEETING JUNE 22, 2024

Present:

Walter Boss, Chair
Holly Rhodes-Teague, Vice Chair
Joseph Geiman
Eugene Cook
Rosemary Coluccio
Richard Barry, Secretary
Robert Marzella, Treasurer

Members of the Public:

Michelle McConvey	Cindy Waage
Matt Kaing	Jake Tinsley
Karen Boss	Dee Martello
Emilly Scott	Robin Scott
Tim Stotthard	Ed Schulhafer
PJ McAteer	Wesley Newfarmer
Bill Mattheas	Michael DeFalco
Jennifer Krause	Alex Jordan
Zach Bloom	Mike Posser

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 12:30 P.M. and the following statement was read by Chairman Boss:

“The Board of Fire Commissioners have recently completed their mandatory Audit and Investigation into the District’s finances. All the money has been returned with interest. It is now up to the Suffolk County District Attorney as to whether or not they will prosecute the individual involved. At the end of the investigation a report will be available to the general public as required. Our conversation with our District Accountant that was held on June 15th will be available on our website. It explains what has occurred and suggestions for how to proceed in the future.”

Members of the Public were given an opportunity to comment. PJ McAteer spoke about his trust for the board, how he knew all the board members and felt all the board members were doing their best.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Apparatus, Equipment and Radios - Commissioner Geiman

Gave an update on the progress of the new truck.

SCBA "O" ring situation concerning metallic substances. Advised that we should have one of our SCBAs tested when all the SCBAs are going off the island.

Chief Merker has two going off island next week. Will try to have one tested.

Grants have started to be awarded. We should start to hear in the near future.

The NYS grants should be announced in September. We have applied for assistance with an elevator.

Budgets, Audit, Public Relations - Commissioner Coluccio/Treasurer Marzella

The treasurer report will be delivered at the next meeting, as the new treasurer was only appointed this month.

Commissioner Coluccio that she will prepare a draft response to our yearly audit and forward it to Commissioner Cook before sharing it with the entire Board for their review and filing.

Commissioner Coluccio said there was nothing to report on Public Relations, but then an audience member made an inquiry on how does the general public find our meeting schedule. It was discussed that it is posted on our website, and published in the Long Island Advance.

Insurance, LOSAP - Commissioner Cook

LOSAP payment for the year has been paid in full.

Currently we are completing the yearly insurance questionnaire.

Grounds - Chairman Boss

Replace the side door with a new lock. Currently the door cannot be locked and anyone can access the building. It has now become an emergency situation. The door is used as an emergency exit for the upstairs of the firehouse.

Estimate received from Don Kohlhepp for \$2,500 plus cost of the new lock. Steve Young was contacted but never supplied a bid.

MOTION MADE by Commissioner Geiman on an emergency basis for a total cost of \$3,000.00 to have the door and lock repaired, Commissioner Cook seconded the motion. Commissioners Boss and Rhodes-Teague voted in favor, Commissioner Coluccio abstained.

Commissioner Boss discussed work regarding the generator and how it will now also be connected to the Annex.

Commissioner Boss had a bill from Artie Nelson (electrician) for the repair of a heating element for the hot water system and to rewire the generator. There were three service visits to the property. We received a bill in the amount of \$1,500.00

MOTION MADE by Commissioner Cook and seconded by Commissioner Rhodes-Teague in the amount of \$1,500.00 to pay Arthur Nelson, Electrician. All members voted in favor of the expenditure.

Alarms, Bank Reconciliations - Commissioner Rhodes-Teague

Reviewed alarm sheets for the last several months and will be stored in the Commissioners' office. Bank reconciliations could not be done today, but will be handled at the next hearing.

Secretary Report - Richard Barry

The District's OneDrive currently has one user with one password, even though it was shared. There are personal files from the prior District Treasurer/Secretary there. The prior District Treasurer/Secretary still has access to this. Commissioner Coluccio claims that a new version with multiple users was paid for but not set up. She will go in and clean up files and find out what is going on.

We need to renew our subscription with BlueHost. According to our vendor the District credit card has expired. Commission Coluccio says she will contact Timothy Leigh-Manuell and take care of the issue.

The original Oaths of Office for both Treasurer and Secretary have been notarized. They will be sent to the Town Clerk's office and filed on Monday, June 24, 2024.

Paperwork for the Board of Elections has been filled out by Commissioner Cook. That will be sent to the Board on Monday, June 24, 2024 so we receive the current voter roster.

Discussed upcoming Commissioner Election for July 9th. Three registered voters have volunteered to work the polls. Commission Cook will order food for the evening meeting.

A report was submitted by Commissioner Coluccio regarding the upcoming elections and transparency. Members of the audience had questions on where in the community notices are posted and what the Board's obligations are. They were advised that the official newspaper for the District is the Long Island Advance. We also post notices on the firehouse bulletin board, the Pines Pantry and in the Harbor.

Ed Schulhafer discussed the community bulletin board and FIPPOA's newsletter. It was discussed that in our District Report at the May FIPPOA meeting, the upcoming Commissioner election was discussed.

Commissioner Geiman wanted to thank Commissioner Cook for all of his hard work during this difficult time. Commissioner Cook has been dealing with the paperwork for the upcoming election and spending time with the new Treasurer.

MOTION made by Commissioner Geiman to accept the March 23, 2024 meeting minutes with corrections, Seconded by Commissioner Coluccio, and all voted in favor.

MOTION made by Commissioner Boss to accept the June 15th, 2024 meeting minutes with one correction, Seconded by Commissioner Rhodes-Teague, all voted in favor.

There was an email vote for new Treasurer and new Secretary that took place. We are now going to take a formal vote with all Commissioners present.

MOTION made by Commissioner Coluccio for ROBERT MARZELLA to be District Treasurer, seconded by Commission Boss, all Commissioners voted in favor.

MOTION made by Commissioner Rhodes-Teague for Richard Barry to be District Secretary, Seconded by Commissioner Geiman. Commissioners Boss and Cook voted in favor. Commissioner Coluccio voted against.

MOTION made by Commissioner Geiman and seconded by Commissioner Rhodes-Teague for \$1,000.00 salary for each position. All Commissioners voted in favor for the Treasurer to be paid \$1,000.00 per month. Commissioners Boss, Geiman, Cook, and Rhodes-Teague voted in favor of the Secretary to be paid \$1,000.00 per month. Commissioner Coluccio voted against.

CHIEF'S REPORT

ALARMS:

#3981 - 5/18/24 - 215 Bay Walk - Auto Alarm, nothing showing, owner cleaning with chemicals

#3982 - 6/18/24 - 48 Picketty Ruff - Burnt extension cord to AC
 #3983 - 6/21/24 - Chief's investigation - Service Call - Broken water main

MEETINGS:

#1315 - 6/1/24 - Officer and Department Meeting
 #1316 - 6/7/24 - Department meeting
 #1317 - 6/9/24 - Mandated PESH/Sexual Harassment/Workplace Violence
 #1318 - 6/15/24 - Annual Installation Dinner and Inspection
 #1319 - 6/22/24 - Department Meeting

DRILLS:

#1346 - 6/1/24 Hose handling, hydrant hookup, interior attack
 #1347 - 6/7/24 Night Drill - Lighting, scene lighting, review of 5-28-2 lighting
 #1348 - 6/12/24 Driver Training, requalification
 #1349 - 6/22/24 Storz, LDH

WORK DETAIL:

#1170 - 6/13/24 - Installation of Water Rescue in FIP

Requests/Comments:

There will be one makeup class for PESH training.

- 1 Currently waiting for CO OP permission for placement of chef's cart. Needs to be sited.
- 2 Request to have yellow lines painted in firehouse as guides for #1 and #4.

Commissioners will see if Building staff can handle this.

- 3 Request new 20 High Visibility Vests for Auxiliary - \$340.00.

MOTION made by Commissioner Geiman for payment of \$340.00, Commissioner Boss seconded the motion, all Commissioners voted in favor of the expenditure.

- 4 Request for 10 Flashlights for Auxiliary in the amount of \$200.00

After conversation regarding recyclable batteries and chargers, it was determined that Chief Merker will research this item further.

- 5 Request for paper towels - Will be ordered and placed on the District's bill.
- 6 Rob Sperte's mask is still on order. Has not been received.

7 Disposal of American Flags & Gloves.

MOTION made by Commissioner Coluccio and Seconded by Commissioner Cook to dispose of old American Flags & utility gloves. All Commissioners voted in favor. Items will be removed from our inventory listing.

8 Fire Hose Washer. Requested by Chief Geiman last year. It was noted that the pricing has gone up slightly. Three inch hose is now \$691.00 and the five inch hose is \$1,302.00. Total will be \$1,993.00.

9 The Chief has received Jon Gilbert's pager back.

10 We are still awaiting the return of Kim McGlone's Class A Uniform. Commissioner Coluccio will reach out to her again and see what can be done for the return of the uniform.

11 Fax Machine for Communications Room.

MOTION made by Commissioner Cook to spend \$400 for a new fax machine. Seconded by Commissioner Boss, all Commissioners voted in favor.

12 Installation Dinner Bill for printing from Weeks & Reichel Printers. There is a balance outstanding of \$733.00 that should be paid by the District.

MOTION made by Commissioner Geiman and Seconded by Commissioner Boss in the amount of \$733.00 to Weeks & Reichel Printers. All Commissioners voted in favor.

OLD BUSINESS:

Commissioner Coluccio reminded the Board that we will need to allocate funds from another area of the budget to pay the new expenses for the Treasurer and Secretary. We will need to make a formal motion at a future meeting when we determine where the funds will come from.

A conversation was had regarding the District and Department's website. We have been advised that our website needs to be rebuilt. We have received one bid in the amount of \$2,488.00. Chief Merker will review the matter further and discuss with the Board at a future meeting.

There was discussion regarding our security system at the firehouse. Several of the cameras do not work, and our current system of recording and accessing video footage does not necessarily work at all times. It was suggested that we might want to reach out and get some bids on a new updated system.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 1:45 P.M. BY CHAIRMAN BOSS.