

**EAST CLINTON FIRE DISTRICT**

January 11, 2023

**COMMISSIONERS MEETING – FINAL**

Regular Meeting 7:00

**COMMISSIONERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Stephen Forschler, Chairman

Kevin Fierro

Howard Shapiro

Russell Tompkins

**COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:**

Michael DiGiacomio

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:**

Robert Simon, Treasurer

Jim Passikoff, Accountant Left at 7:37 p.m.

Roderick MacLeod, Attorney, arrived at 7:00 p.m.

Chairman Forschler called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

- RBC Monthly Statement December 2022 – Commissioners Copied
- RBC Capital Markets – Various information documents – to Commissioner Shapiro
- VFIS – Map to Driver Operator Proficiency – to Chief Estes
- M&T Bank – Month-End collateral Statement dated 1/3/2023 – to Mr. Simon
- \$200 contribution to the East Clinton Fire District from Chamberlain/Kernan – to Mr. Simon
- \$100 Donation to the East Clinton Rescue Squad from Schwarze - to Ms. Thompsett
- NYSAFC 2023 Seminar Series – Truck Skills Beyond the Textbooks – to Chief Estes
- Paychex Poster – to Chairman Forschler

**MINUTES:**

A motion was made by Commissioner Fierro and seconded by Commissioner Tompkins to approve the regular meeting minutes of December 16, 2022 as presented.

Commissioner Tompkins	Aye	Commissioner Shapiro	Aye
-----------------------	-----	----------------------	-----

Commissioner Fierro	Aye	Chairman Forschler	Aye
---------------------	-----	--------------------	-----

Motion carried 4-0.

**FINANCIALS:**

A motion was made by Commissioner Tompkins and seconded by Commissioner Shapiro to pay the bills per the abstract dated December 30, 2022.

Commissioner Tompkins	Aye	Commissioner Fierro	Aye
-----------------------	-----	---------------------	-----

Commissioner Shapiro	Aye	Chairman Forschler	Aye
----------------------	-----	--------------------	-----

Motion carried 4-0.

A motion was made by Chairman Forschler and seconded by Commissioner Fierro to accept the bank statement for the period ending on December 31, 2022 and in agreement with that noted on the balance sheet as put forward by Mr. Simon and Mr. Passikoff.

Commissioner Tompkins	Aye	Commissioner Fierro	Aye
Commissioner Shapiro	Aye	Chairman Forschler	Aye

Motion carried 4-0.

Recap of 2022 – Mr. Passikoff said on Page 2 of 9, the net income is \$107,657.65. Net assets are \$207,658.03 in the general fund which will reduce slightly. \$100,000 was added to the fund balance which was left over from 2021. The repair reserve fund has \$42,650, the equipment purchase fund has \$572,147, and the capital improvement fund has \$502,128. A couple of accounts over budgeted but the main categories are way under budget so that's fine.

Chairman Forschler said so we will need our annual motion to realign the budget. Mr. Passikoff said you should do that after the March meeting. Chairman Forschler said and at the same time, make decisions on the surpluses in the reserve funds. There was no increase for the fire district in the town budget. Mr. Passikoff said LOSAP could be a problem on the horizon as the market is way way down. That will affect the contributions going forward. Chairman Forschler said we have gotten the contributions way down. Even into this year, we are more than 100% funded. That will help us. However, we will have to keep an eye on that. Mr. Passikoff said if anything, it may impact the 2024 budget.

#### **DEPARTMENT:**

Car 1 – Don Estes      Monthly Calls: 15      Year to Date: 134 for the year

- The combination of fire and EMS calls for 2022 is 325 which is a record. The numbers are going up, not down.
- First day drill will be on CO detectors, SCBA, and running meters.
- Assignments were designated as follows:  
Chief Estes: training including in house and driver training, state reports, pagers and radios, instructor
- Chris Gammone - state class signup, apparatus maintenance and updates, updating quick call record sheets
- David VanLeuven – Assist with training, power equipment
- Tim Bathrick – SCBA, Cascade System, gas meters, thermal imaging cameras
- Jim Bathrick – Driver trainer, equipment inventory
- Jim Ruffell - Fire police equipment and assist with training
- Officers must take the lead on at least one drill annually to get officer points.
- This month going into next month, most of your chief staff and line officers are enrolled in classes.
- Driver recertification on pump training has started. All drivers of this equipment must be recertified annually.

- Going forward, and this is not an option, all new members will be assigned a mentor. Right now, we have three new member applications with the potential of six new members. All will be assigned to a mentor.

Car 2 – Jim Bathrick – Not present.

Car 3 – Chris Gammone – Not present.

**EMS** Bob Simon for Susan deHaan Monthly Calls: 20 Year To Date: 191 for 2022

- The new AEDs and the automatic blood pressure monitor have arrived. They put the monitor in the ambulance. The EMS squad will start attending the EMS battalion drills and some training. We will also be participating in the Dutchess County EMS Council meetings. We plan on taking 38-7 to those.
- Mr. Simon and Ms. deHaan will start doing CPR classes. Both are recertified for instruction. They do not plan on doing BLS or Heart Saver. They will be doing family and friends.
- Applications have been submitted for three new EMS members. They will be attending the NDP class in February subject to the approval of the district.
- The fire police want five red cones. Five come in one package. Mr. Ruffell said the reason for this is if they get more fire police, each individual can have a red cone next to them in the road for safety and visibility.
- 

**Company** – Maryann Thompsett, President

- There are three new application. Joseph Horesky has cleared the background check and needs to get a physical. Zacharias Shapiro and Sean Carroll need to be submitted for background checks.
- Joseph Horesky lives on Jameson Hill Road and will be taking the EMT class. A motion was made by Chairman Forschler and seconded by Commissioner Tompkins that the board accept Joseph Horesky into active member status and Chairman Forschler will advise TEK that he is ready for his physical. Chief Estes has met him and believes he is a good candidate.

Commissioner Fierro	Aye	Commissioner Shapiro	Aye
Commissioner Tompkins	Aye	Chairman Forschler	Aye

Motion carried 4-0. Mr. Simon will notify Mr. Horesky that he needs the physical.

- There is a blood drive planned for April 29 and October 21.

A motion was made by Chairman Forschler and seconded by Commissioner Shapiro that the board authorizes the department to hold a blood drive here in the facility on April 29, 2023 and October 21, 2023.

Commissioner Shapiro	Aye	Commissioner Fierro	Aye
Commissioner Tompkins	Aye	Chairman Forschler	Aye

Motion carried 4-0.

- Cheyenne LeRoy is scheduled for her physical this week.

**Compressor on tanker** – The compressor is not in yet. Junior's will let Chief Estes know as soon as it arrives which should be soon. Chief Estes is running the tanker every day to keep the pressure up.

**AEDs** – Mr. Simon said the new AEDs have arrived. They do not have the infant pediatric piece but they can be ordered.

**Town of Washington (TWO) letter** – The letter has been sent out and Mr. Werner confirmed all of the Town Board members have copies. Commissioner Tompkins said the Town Board has a proposal to amend the zoning law to allow Cornerstone to go to the Planning Board to increase size. It would be great if the Planning Board could make them have their own rescue. Mr. MacLeod said he believes the Planning Board could make that a condition of the special use permit but it doesn't mean Cornerstone will abide by it. They can still call 911 for an ambulance. How do you enforce that? Mr. Werner said if the amendment will be voted on at the next Town Board meeting and if it passes, at some point in the near future, Cornerstone will come to the Planning Board to go through the steps to get a special use permit. That would be the time to address the rescue issue. Mr. MacLeod said East Clinton goes to West Clinton as part of the mutual aid plan. East Clinton has backed out of mutual aid to Cornerstone. E911 has been notified that East Clinton is not going to Cornerstone. Mr. Werner said Cornerstone is paying taxes. If the Planning Board made them get their own rescue, they can reiterate that they are paying taxes to West Clinton. Because Cornerstone has a higher rate of calls, the Fire Department could create a separate taxing entity just for Cornerstone. Mr. MacLeod said a fire district does not have to provide ambulance service. West Clinton has no ability to enforce. They could say because you need so much service, you will be a special district.

**Membership** – Chairman Forschler said there are two people on the active member roster that came nowhere close to making active member requirements. Tim Olson and Chris Burns will be getting a letter from the district stating they need to return their equipment and no longer have active member status. The chief and department will be copied. This does not affect their membership in the department.

**LOSAP Officer Points** – In order to get officer points, an officer has to make 15% of the calls that apply to your discipline.

**Reduction in assessed value for firefighters** – Mr. MacLeod said the legislature passed a law that allows the county, the town, the school district, and fire district to give active firefighters up to a 10% reduction in the assessed value of their home. We don't have to petition anyone. If we want to give a 10% reduction in the assessed value for fire tax calculation, you pass a resolution to do that. The town, county and school districts have to pass a resolution also.

The district could take a position and write a letter to the county, the town, and school districts that we want the exemption but they don't have to do that. The district can only act for the fire district tax. School districts may all take their own stand. The town assessor will be taking charge of this. It only applies to firefighters who live in the district they serve in. You have to resubmit a list of active firefighters every year. The legislation doesn't say clearly who submits the list. Right now, every firefighter is entitled to a \$200 credit on your income tax return. You won't get both. It is either/or. The assessment request has to be into the assessor's office by March 1st of this year so if this happens, it won't be this year. Also, if you have a military or senior exemption, your assessed value has already been reduced. Where does this exemption come in – before or after the other exemptions. The county is in the process of drafting a letter to the town, county, and school district. Mr. MacLeod said he will draft a letter to go to the town but there could be private discussions with the town board members as well. Commissioner Shapiro will start getting it in gear for the Millbrook School District. To get the exemption, the firefighter has to be the principal resident. Mr. MacLeod will come back in February with a letter and the wording for a resolution to the assessor. Glenda said the town will talk about it at next month's meeting so you might want the letter to get there ahead of that.

A motion was made by Chairman Forschler and seconded by Commissioner Shapiro to authorize Chairman Forschler and Mr. MacLeod to draft and send a letter to the town board stating our support for a resolution to have active member assessments reduced by up to 10% for the town tax only.

Commissioner Fierro	Aye	Commissioner Shapiro	Aye
Commissioner Tompkins	Aye	Chairman Forschler	Aye

Motion carried 4-0.

There are three school districts in town – Hyde Park, Millbrook and Pine Plains.

A motion was made by Chairman Forschler and seconded by Commissioner Tompkins to adjourn the regular meeting at 8:13 p.m. and go into executive session with Mr. MacLeod for a personnel issue.

Commissioner Shapiro	Aye	Commissioner Fierro	Aye
Commissioner Tompkins	Aye	Chairman Forschler	Aye

Motion carried 4-0.

A motion was made by Chairman Forschler and seconded by Commissioner Tompkins to resume the regular meeting at 8:28 p.m.

Commissioner Tompkins	Aye	Commissioner Fierro	Aye
Commissioner Shapiro	Aye	Chairman Forschler	Aye

Motion carried 4-0.

All commissioners received the LOSAP records list of who made LOSAP points in 2022.

A motion was made by Chairman Forschler and seconded by Commissioner Tompkins to approve the 2022 Firefighter Records listing for the Defined Benefit Length of Service Award Program.

Commissioner Shapiro	Aye	Commissioner Fierro	Aye
Commissioner Tompkins	Aye	Chairman Forschler	Aye

Motion carried 4-0.

A motion was made by Chairman Forschler and seconded by Commissioner Tompkins to approve the 2022 Firefighter Records listing for the Defined Contribution Length of Service Award Program.

Commissioner Shapiro	Aye	Commissioner Fierro	Aye
Commissioner Tompkins	Aye	Chairman Forschler	Aye

Motion carried 4-0.

All commissioners signed the 2022 Sponsor Approval Form for both programs. The secretary will forward the 2022 Data Request Package to the Fire Department for the 30 days posting.

#### **New business**

**Town of Washington Update** – Commissioner Shapiro said he will meet with the Town of Washington board member later this month.

**Public Comment:** None

#### **Adjourn:**

A motion was made by Commissioner Fierro and seconded by Commissioner Shapiro to adjourn the meeting at 8:34 p.m.

Commissioner Tompkins	Aye	Commissioner Fierro	Aye
Commissioner Shapiro	Aye	Chairman Forschler	Aye

Motion carried 4-0.

The next meeting of the Board of Commissioners will be held on Wednesday, February 15, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. at the firehouse.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Buechele, Secretary  
East Clinton Fire District