

EAST CLINTON FIRE DISTRICT

January 10, 2024

COMMISSIONERS MEETING–DRAFT

Regular Meeting 7:32 p.m.

COMMISSIONERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Stephen Forschler, Chairman

Thomas Bonanno

Kevin Fierro

Howard Shapiro

Russell Tompkins

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:**

Robert Simon, Treasurer

James Passikoff, Accountant (left at 8:00 p.m.)

Chairman Forschler called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- RBC Account Statement December 1 through December 31, 2023 – Commissioners and Treasurer copied.
- RBC Prospectus and Booklets – to Commissioner Shapiro
- From Dutchess County Department of Emergency Response dated December 20, 2023 – Permission for Use of Dutchess County Department of Emergency Response Training Center and additional training facilities – Needs to be signed and returned.

A motion was made by Chairman Forschler and seconded by Commissioner Tompkins to authorize Chairman Forschler to sign this document and when the need arises, Chairman Forschler will contact the insurance company to get the appropriate insurance certificates naming the appropriate additional insured.

Commissioner Tompkins	Aye	Commissioner Fierro	Aye
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Commissioner Shapiro	Aye	Chairman Forschler	Aye
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Commissioner Bonanno	Aye		
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Motion carried 5-0. Chairman Forschler signed the document and handed to the secretary who will make a copy and mail back to the Dutchess County Department of Emergency Response.

MINUTES:

A motion was made by Chairman Forschler and seconded by Commissioner Tompkins to approve the regular meeting minutes of December 13, 2023 as presented.

Commissioner Shapiro	Aye	Commissioner Bonanno	Aye
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Commissioner Tompkins	Aye	Chairman Forschler	Aye
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Commissioner Fierro	Aye		
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Motion carried 5-0.

FINANCIALS:

A motion was made by Commissioner Tompkins and seconded by Commissioner Fierro to pay the bills per the abstract dated December 31, 2023 with no exceptions.

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

Motion carried 5-0.

Mr. Simon said right now, we are paying for the meter and asked if it should be turned off. Mr. Simon will call Central Hudson tomorrow to determine whether it is more cost effective to leave it on or turn it off when it's not in use and turn back on when it is needed.

A motion was made by Commissioner Tompkins and seconded by Commissioner Fierro that, if Mr. Simon finds out there is a one-time fee of less than \$50.00 to turn the meter off or back on, the board authorizes him to turn it off and turn it back on in August. Mr. Simon said right now, the cost of the meter is \$30.00 a month.

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

Motion carried 5-0.

Utility Vehicle 38-63 – Mr. Simon pulled together the total cost for 38-63 which is now in service. The total cost was \$78,207.09 which was spent out of general fund instead of the equipment purchase fund. Commissioner Shapiro said by taking the money out of the general fund and not borrowing money, we are saving taxpayers money and it is a good fiduciary use of taxpayer money. Chairman Forschler said this is a very economical replacement vehicle for the '87 Ford we decommissioned. We did get \$12,500 for the '87 Ford which offsets some of the expense of the new truck. We got a very functional new vehicle for around \$68,000. Mr. Passikoff said the cost of the vehicle was spread over 2022 and 2023 with the bulk paid in 2023. Chairman Forschler said we paid for the brush truck that way a few years ago and now we are in fairly good shape with vehicles having an adequate vehicle for the rescue squad, a fairly new ambulance at a great price, and a chief's vehicle. Mr. Passikoff said once you start spending money from the general fund, you can't go back to a reserve fund and take money out. This board normally applies the surplus to the funds so in effect, this truck was paid from the equipment fund; the money was just never actually transferred. As far as the \$12,500 that came from the sale of the '87 Ford, the original vehicle was purchased from the equipment fund so the money made from the sale of the vehicle has to go back into the equipment fund which is where it was deposited.

Surplus – Mr. Passikoff said the surplus will be about \$47,000, keeping in mind the district bought the new vehicle. The general fund savings was \$223,000. It dropped down by \$7,800 at the end of December leaving a fund balance of \$215,000 which is more than enough to carry us through. In February or March, we will need to determine how much to move to reserve funds keeping in mind the tax revenue check does not come in until the beginning of March so the

district will need cash to carry through. As soon as we get the AUD numbers, we can allocate the surplus.

Commissioner Bonanno asked what the \$26,000 charge is under firematic equipment. Firematic equipment is any equipment that stays with the vehicles. Mr. Simon said part of that \$26,000 are the parts for 63 including the hose and pumps, cab and hitch, lights, siren, and radios. Mr. Passikoff said \$13,000 was spent in May and \$10,000 in June. The \$13,000 was the combi tool which was included as part of the truck expense.

CDs – Mr. Passikoff said we are still working on CD's. He discussed collateralization and said he has another thought to try and will bring to the board next month.

Car 1 Don Estes Monthly Calls: 9 Year to Date: 110

- There were 237 calls combined fire and EMS which is down 25% from last year. Response was 100%.
- The drill for this month was ice water and rescue but we are postponing until next month since we have no ice. This month's drill will be on Tuesday night, January 16th and will be a waters ops drill utilizing the proven theory that we can supply a master stream by using the pumps on 63 and 61. We will also do certifications on the pumps at that time.
- We received the Forestry grant award of \$2,500. It needs to be processed by June 30th. We have to spend up to \$5,000 to receive the full \$2,500. We agreed to go after another "screamer" – a floating pump that pushes a ton of water and is well utilized for grass fires, remote areas, etc. and it drafts in one inch of water. The new one is a 13 horsepower and can push around 350 gallons a minute. These things are amazing. It weighs about 70 pounds. The old one weighs 40 pounds and pushes 200 to 225 gallons a minute. They are not making the two stroke anymore. In addition to the new 63, in remote areas, it will supply water. We have to buy it outright at \$4,200. After we purchase it and have it in house, our forest ranger comes here and verifies it's here, signs, and we get a check for \$2,100.

A motion was made by Chairman Forschler and seconded by Commissioner Fierro to authorize Chief Estes to spend \$4,200 on the floating pump with the expectation of receiving \$2,100 back with the grant approved by the NYS DEC. Commissioner Tompkins asked what the intended use is for this pump. Chief Estes said it is for remote areas with inadequate water sources, such as a grass fire, or if we can't get close enough to the fire. These pumps use standard hoses. It is a great tool. The current screamer is on 61, the brush truck. The second one is going on 63.

Commissioner Shapiro Aye Commissioner Bonanno Aye

Commissioner Tompkins Aye Chairman Forschler Aye

Commissioner Fierro Aye

Motion carried 5-0.

- 63 is now in service. We still have some organization to do but it's getting there. We have three trash pumps with assigned hard suction, five electric pumps lined up ready to go, and a front pump. It is better organized than it's ever been.
- The assigned jobs for 2024 are Chief Estes training reports, driver training, ordering equipment; Jim Bathrick equipment, driver training; Chris Gammone state classes, vehicle maintenance, bailout; David Van Leuven SCBA, bail out; Tim Bathrick carbon monoxide detectors, bail out; Jim Ruffell radio pagers, driver training; Brandon Colley maintenance of bays; Jim Ruffell fire police. For everyone's information, this year the workplace violence and sexual harassment will be a training, not a drill. We have already scheduled 24 drills, including EMS drills, for the upcoming year.
- The Town's tree burning is this Saturday. We are taking 12, 71 and 68 over providing the weather holds up. This has already been approved.
- Members have been reminded to be present at the firehouse every Monday night. Attendance is usually good at the beginning of the year and then dissipates.
- We have started the yearly re-certifications for all district vehicle drivers and are continuing with driver training.
- There will be a CPR class in February.
- New member Todd Martin has had massive experience in West Clinton as a driver and pump operator with certifications and probably has his CDL. East Clinton has a one year waiting period before new members can drive vehicles. Chief Estes asked the board if they would consider waiving that one year requirement based on Todd's experience. Chairman Forschler said we need a copy of his license for the Lense Program before he can drive.

A motion was made by Chairman Forschler and seconded by Commissioner Tompkins that the board consider waiving the one year waiting period to drive for new member Todd Martin. Commissioner Tompkins asked about his training with West Clinton. Chief Estes said he has to have pump ops and EVOC. He is unsure if he has firefighter 2. He has all the necessary classes to drive. Commissioner Tompkins was in agreement with waiving the one year requirement if the chief thinks it's okay since Mr. Martin has been driving with West Clinton. Chief Estes said he will have to certify on apparatus, pumping and driving. This has never been waived before, but we've never had anyone come in with this level of experience.

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

Motion carried 5-0. This waiver is contingent upon Chairman Forschler receiving a copy of his license and adding him to the Lense Program and Chief Estes putting him through the paces and starting small.

Car 3 - Chris Gammone

- We are recommending switching from Jr's to Premier for 12 and 38. Jr's only does firematics. Premier will do much more. He submitted Premier's rates. We have not had our pumps certified or tested in a while. Premier has a lift for the trucks and will take pictures. The lift will lift 50 tons. Chief Estes said everything he has seen from Premier

has been outstanding and he thinks they would be less expensive than Hopewell and they are very agreeable. Mr. Ruffell said Premier will test and certify. Chairman Forschler said it will cover the district if we have a regular preventative maintenance program. We need to be able to prove we are properly maintaining our apparatus.

A motion was made by Chairman Forschler and seconded by Commissioner Fierro that the board authorize \$5,440 for 38-12 and 38-38 to have the large chassis and pump serviced and the pump test. This needs to be on a regular basis. The pumps don't need to be certified every year but will be tested every year. Commissioner Bonanno asked if we need more than one bid? Chairman Forschler reviewed the policy and withdrew his motion with the agreement of Commissioner Fierro.

A motion was made by Chairman Forschler and seconded by Commissioner Fierro that the board authorize \$2,720 for 38-38 to have the large chassis service, the complete pump service and the pump test.

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

Motion carried 5-0.

A motion was made by Chairman Forschler and seconded by Commissioner Fierro that the board authorize \$2,720 for 38-12 to have the large chassis service, the complete pump service and the pump test.

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

Motion carried 5-0.

- Ms. deHaan's vehicle will be going to get the muffler fixed.

EMS – Susan deHaan Monthly calls: 6 Year to Date: 127

- We are doing the CPR class for the company on February 29 to re-certify everyone.
- We have started doing joint EMS drills with neighboring fire districts. Next week we are going to Milan for a trauma drill.
- We are getting measured for EMS turnout gear. It is in the budget. We will supply the quote as soon as we have it.
- Jobs – Susan deHaan certifications and training; Bob Simon inventory, CME coordination, maintenance.

Jim Ruffell Sr. – Company President

- The installation dinner will be May 11th. The next planning meeting will be January 12 at 6:30.
- Heather Fitzsimmons will work with Karen on the AMR. It is very delinquent.

- We need to get the stove and hood cleaned. Mr. Ruffell will provide a hard copy of a detailed estimate and breakdown for the board to review at the February meeting.
- The Dutchess County Fire Police would like to hold their February 13 meeting at 1800 hours here.

A motion was made by Chairman Forschler and seconded by Commissioner Shapiro to allow the Dutchess County Fire Police to meet here at the firehouse for their February 13 meeting.

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

Motion carried 5-0.

- Mr. Ruffell submitted two beneficiary forms and the training certificate for Tom O'Brien for Fire Police to the secretary.

LOSAP – The board reviewed the sheet for the 30-day posting.

A motion was made by Chairman Forschler and seconded by Commissioner Tompkins that the submitted listing has been reviewed by the governing board and that all board members be authorized to sign the sponsor approval forms for the Defined Benefit and Defined Contribution Plans.

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

Motion carried 5-0.

Physicals – everybody is up to date.

Meeting Coverage – Karen Buechele will be out of town for the February, April and May meetings. Pat Warren will cover the February meeting and Carol Mackin, Town Clerk, will cover the meetings and secretarial responsibilities for April and May.

Old business:

Commissioner Shapiro said the Millbrook Central School District approved the 10% deduction off the school tax bill for Millbrook for active members of the fire districts within the Millbrook Central School District which includes parts of East Clinton for active volunteers with a minimum of five years of active service. If a member feels they are entitled to this discount, they must apply through the Town of Clinton assessor's office. The assessor's office will contact the East Clinton Fire District Board of Commissioners who would need to certify with the Chief's assistance any member who applies. This information needs to be transmitted at the company meeting through Jim Ruffell Sr.

New business:

Commissioner Bonanno said there is a 25 million dollar grant application now available for new volunteer firehouses. The application needs to be submitted by April. It looks like a district could get up to one million dollars for a new firehouse. Commissioner Bonanno will find out when the money needs to be spent and Commissioner Shapiro will research the information and see what the requirements are. A suggestion was made as to whether the district should hire a grant writer and that the district should be looking at all possible grants.

Chairman Forschler said the figures for bond rates will be reviewed at the February meeting when he will bring a spreadsheet and various numbers can be run so we can find out the impact. One of the first things that needs to be established is a budget. The architect gave a 5 million dollar estimate for a brick building and site work in 2022. We also want to look at a metal building. Before we draw a firehouse, we need a discussion as to what comes first – a number palatable to the taxpayers or what we need and how much it will cost. The district drives the cost. The first question the taxpayer will ask is, what is the cost impact to me. The bond counsel will need to know what our number is also. Commissioner Shapiro said the school district has gone through this process and he agreed that this is the right approach to be successful. Commissioner Bonanno asked if these discussions could take place at workshops and the answer was yes.

Public Comment: None

A motion was made by Commissioner Tompkins and seconded by Commissioner Fierro to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 p.m.

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

Motion carried 5-0.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Commissioners will be held on Wednesday, February 14, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. at the firehouse.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Buechele, Secretary
East Clinton Fire District Board of Commissioners