

EAST CLINTON FIRE DISTRICT

June 14, 2023

COMMISSIONERS MEETING – FINAL

Regular Meeting 7:00

COMMISSIONERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Stephen Forschler, Chairman
Michael DiGiacomio
Kevin Fierro
Howard Shapiro
Russell Tompkins

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Robert Simon, Treasurer
James Passikoff, Accountant, **left at 7:14 p.m.**

Chairman Forschler called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- RBC Statement May 1, 2023 through May 31, 2023 – Commissioners copied.
- RBC Portfolio Review -March 31, 2023 through April 4, 2023 – Commissioners copied.
- RBC Prospectus – to Commissioner Shapiro
- D.C. Volunteer Firemen’s Association – Letter supporting Vincent Galvin for position of Trustee
- From Central Hudson dated May 9, 2023 – Line Work
- From Plattekill Fire Department – Golf Tournament Fundraiser – September 11, 2023 - To the department.
- From ShelterPoint – Privacy Policy and Benefit Postings
- From Make EMS Essential – Become a Partner – To Mr. Simon
- From M&T Bank – Month End Collateral Statement Dated June 1, 2023 – Mr. Simon was copied.
- From Cuddebackville Fire District – Promoting commitment and dedication – Send a Patch – To the company.

MINUTES:

A motion was made by Commissioner Fierro and seconded by Commissioner Tompkins to approve the regular meeting minutes of May 10, 2023 as amended.

Commissioner Fierro	Aye	Commissioner DiGiacomio	Aye
Commissioner Tompkins	Aye	Chairman Fierro	Aye
Commissioner Shapiro	Aye		

Motion carried 5-0.

FINANCIALS:

A motion was made by Commissioner DiGiacomo and seconded by Commissioner Shapiro to pay the bills per the abstract dated May 31, 2023. Mr. Simon will provide an accounting for all of the expenses for the new truck by next month.

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

Motion carried 5-0.

CD's - Mr. Simon transferred the money from the funds and put it into general checking. Mr. Simon said the interest at the Bank of Millbrook for the CD's is just about the same as what we get for the savings account. Mr. Passikoff said M&T is around 4 %. In your resolution, the board named the Bank of Millbrook for the CD's. If the board approves a new resolution, Mr. Simon can shop around for a higher rate of interest. M&T and TD bank will also provide collateralization.

A motion was made by Chairman Forschler and seconded by Commissioner Tompkins to authorize Mr. Simon, Treasurer, and Mr. Passikoff to shop around at any local bank that has the capability of collateralizing the CD's to find the best interest rate for a 90 day CD. Commissioner Shapiro suggested amending the motion to either a short term three month or a six month. Currently, three and six month seem to be the highest. One year CD's are not any better than a six month. Chairman Forschler and Commissioner Tompkins agreed to modify the motion to read "to find the best interest rate for either a 90 or 180 day CD". Mr. Passikoff asked if there are any issues with going six months with building or equipment money. Chairman Forschler did not see any issues.

Commissioner Tompkins	Aye	Commissioner Fierro	Aye
Commissioner Shapiro	Aye	Chairman Forschler	Aye
Commission DiGiacomo	Aye		

Motion carried 5-0. Mr. Simon and Mr. Passikoff are free to find the best rate of interest. If it is the same rate for a 90 or 180 day, then go for the shorter term and we will re-assess.

A motion was made by Chairman Forschler and seconded by Commissioner Shapiro to accept the bank statement for the period ending on May 31, 2023 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
Commission DiGiacomo	Aye		

Motion carried 5-0.

Independent audit – The auditor sent a list of additional items. Mr. Simon is working through the list and should have everything there by the end of this week. Chair Forschler would like to have a meeting at the end of June if we get the results back timely.

Budget – We need to approve the preliminary budget in September. We will set the workshop dates at the July meeting. Mr. Passikoff can provide the work sheet the middle of July.

New truck progress – Chief Estes updated the board. The cap on the vehicle was leaking but that has been rectified. It is going in to get lettered July 3rd. Everything is moving very slowly. Realistically, it probably won't be in service until Labor Day. MES has a buyer for the power unit of the old combi tool. Does that need to go out for bid? We can get \$1,000 for the power unit not including the combi tool itself. The new combi tool is now on 61. It is in service and six members have trained on it. Commissioner DiGiacomio asked if selling the power unit makes the rest of the tool less valuable. Chief Estes said there is nothing on the old tool that we will ever utilize. Commissioner DiGiacomio suggested asking the buyer if they will buy the whole tool for a little more. Chairman Forschler said it has to go out for bid. We can make it surplus tonight and put it out on Craigs List and have the bids due by the July meeting. Let EMS know it will be on Craigs List.

A motion was made by Chairman Forschler and seconded by Commissioner Fierro that the board declare the old power unit and combi tool as surplus equipment with the intention of putting it out to bid.

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

Motion carried 5-0.

The fabricator is coming on Monday to ensure the tray we put on the front was put on properly and is secure.

Car 1 Don Estes Monthly Calls: 11 Year to Date: 49

- We have started to pick out a couple of fire calls each month to review. We had two outstanding calls last month that were worthy of reviewing. One call which involved Chairman Forschler was the best tanker operation Chief Estes had ever seen. The second call reviewed was on Clinton Hollow Road which involved a psychotic individual.
- The day drill was yesterday and was certifying on the combi tool.
- On Tuesday June 20 we will have the water ops drill.
- The spare fob we had in the cabinet was taken from the chief's room and not returned. Mr. Simon has taken it offline and it will not be replaced.
- The new hose has been put in service on 38 12. We are in good shape with hose.
- Chief Estes will schedule the hose test over the summer and do ladders at the same time.

Car 2 – Jim Bathrick – Not present.

Car 3 – Chris Gammone – Not present

EMS - Bob Simon for Susan deHaan Monthly Calls: 8 Year To Date: 53

- On Friday, Mr. Simon worked with the technician on the power loader on the ambulance. The problem was diagnosed as a bad control board which needs to be replaced at a cost of \$3,814.88. We also may need to replace the battery which is under warranty.

A motion was made by Chairman Forschler that the board approve \$3,814.88 to replace the control module and power module on the ambulance for the power loader.

Because of the maintenance agreement with MSTAR, we can waive the purchasing policy. The power loader is 10 years old and it is worth its weight in gold. They can probably get it in next week.

Commissioner DiGiacomio Aye

Commissioner Fierro Aye

Commissioner Shapiro Aye

Chairman Forschler Aye

Commissioner Tompkins Aye

Motion carried 5-0.

Fire Police - Jim Ruffell Sr. – Not present.

Company/Membership – Maryann Thompsett, President

- We have a new membership application from Thomas O'Brien for Fire Police and Driver.
- The company will participate in the Millbrook parade on July 8.
- The cornhole tournament is July 22.
- The annual dinner meeting is on June 21.

Tailgate – There were no bids received for the tailgate. Chairman Forschler will put it on Facebook marketplace and Craigs list.

Town of Washington – Discussion will be tabled until Mr. MacLeod is present.

Central Hudson – Commissioner Fierro said the district director will be here on June 27 at 10:00 a.m. to discuss getting power to the other lot for community day and will also look over the pole as a result of the complaint.

Life Insurance - Per a request by the company at the last meeting, Chairman Forschler received four bids from Marshall and Sterling for life insurance policies for active members. The four plans are:

- \$10,000 benefit with the amount reduced by 50% at age 70. Total annual premium \$2,446.92
- \$10,000 with no age reduction. Total annual premium \$3,382.92
- \$20,000 with the amount reduced by 50% at age 70. Total annual premium \$4,893.84
- \$20,000 with no age reduction. Total annual premium \$6,765.84

- A fifth option is to not adopt life insurance as the district insurance already has an accidental death benefit.

There is a death and dismemberment part of the life insurance policy that allows a percentage of the principal sum depending on the loss. For any of the policies, if there were a line of duty death, the policy amount would be twice the principal amount. Currently, we have an accidental death policy for \$25,000.

According to Linda Flanagan, most other districts do cover active members with life insurance and the coverage runs the gamut. Commissioner Shapiro asked if the company had a request on this and Ms. Thompsett said anything would be fine but pointed out that many members are over 70. Commissioner Tompkins said the policy description under eligibility says any member who satisfied the requirements of the by-laws as an active emergency service volunteer or a retired emergency service volunteer but the next paragraph says for coverage to apply, the member must be actively involved with the organization. Chairman Forschler said the coverage would be for active, participating members who met the requirements for an active member last year. Commissioner Shapiro said active members whose names are submitted by the board would be covered. This is a supplemental benefit. If the company has no suggestion, to be cost efficient for the taxpayer and since there is no life insurance in place currently, he suggested starting with the lower policy.

A motion was made by Chairman Forschler and seconded by Commissioner Fierro to authorize the expense of \$2,446.92 for the \$10,000 basic life insurance policy with a 50% reduction at the age of 70 for the active members on the active member roster supplied to the insurance company. Commissioner DiGiacomo said the rate will change from year to year depending on the number of active members and their age so this would be approved on a yearly basis.

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

Motion carried 5-0.

Membership – A motion was made by Chairman Forschler and seconded by Commissioner Fierro to adjourn into executive session for the purposes of discussion a personnel issue at 7:40 p.m.

Commissioner Fierro	Aye	Commissioner DiGiacomo	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 to return to regular session at 7:50 p.m.

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

Motion carried 5-0.

The board instructed the secretary to send Thomas O'Brien's application for the background check. The board is still considering the application from Chris Burns and requires more clarification. Ms. Thompsett will inform Matt Estes, Kevin Burns and Gavin Burns that they are authorized to get their physicals.

New business: None

Public Comment:

- Eliot Werner said the Cornerstone application for a special use permit will be in front of the Planning Board for a workshop on July 10th at 7:30 p.m. at the Town Hall. The public is welcome to attend and listen but will not be able to make comments.
- Tony Irkliewskij asked at what point in the process is the review for the new firehouse. Chairman Forschler said we are trying to get power over to the new lot and to get a bid out for bond counsel. That is the first step. The bond counsel will figure out how the proposed new firehouse will impact taxes which will define what we can afford. The original plan has been discarded and the number will be nowhere near what that projected amount was. We are in the preliminary stages.

A motion was made by Commissioner DiGiacomio and seconded by Commissioner Fierro to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

The next meeting of the Board of Commissioners will be held on Wednesday, July 12, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. at the firehouse.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Buechele, Secretary
East Clinton Fire District