

EAST CLINTON FIRE DISTRICT

June 12, 2019

COMMISSIONERS MEETING – FINAL

Regular Meeting 7:30 p.m.

COMMISSIONERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Stephen Forschler, Chairman
Byron Calame
Michael DiGiacomio
Robert Trzcinski
Arthur Weiland

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Roderick MacLeod, Attorney for the District (arrived at p.m.)
Robert Simon, Treasurer
James Passikoff, left at

Chairman Forschler called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited out of respect to Flag Day on June 14th and a moment of silence was held to honor Timothy McCormack.

Chairman Forschler explained to the public the process of reviewing the Vouchers and Financials.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- From Provident – Provident Privacy Policy – To Commissioner Trzcinski
- From NFPA – Training Flier – to Chairman Forschler
- From Northern Dutchess Hospital – EMS Appreciation Dinner and Seminar – June 20, 2019 – To Susan deHaan
- From RBC Wealth Management – Account Statement May 1 – 31, 2019 (Commissioners copied)
- From PERMA – 2019 Annual Member Conference Member Questionnaire – to Commissioner Trzcinski
- From County of Dutchess dated May 15, 2019 – Dutchess County Department of Emergency Response Training Center – A motion was made by Chairman Forschler and seconded by Commissioner Trzcinski that Chairman Forschler be authorized to sign the document.

Commissioner Calame	Aye	Commissioner Trzcinski	Aye
Commissioner DiGiacomio	Aye	Chairman Forschler	Aye
Commissioner Weiland	Aye		

Motion carried 5-0. Commissioner Trzcinski will provide supporting documents to Chairman Forschler.

- From PERMA dated May 31, 2019 – Certificate of Achievement for no workers’ compensation claims. The Board congratulated Chief Estes on a job well done. The letter went to Commissioner Trzcinski and the certificate will be posted.
- From ShelterPoint dated May 20, 2019 – Accidental Death and Dismemberment Benefits Rider – to Commissioner Trzcinski

MINUTES:

Motion to accept the May 15, 2019 regular minutes as presented made by Commissioner DiGiacomio and seconded by Commissioner Calame.

Commissioner Weiland	Aye	Commissioner Calame	Aye
Commissioner Trzcinski	Aye	Chairman Forschler	Aye
Commissioner DiGiacomio	Aye		

Motion carried 5-0.

Motion to accept the May 21, 2019 workshop minutes as presented made by Commissioner Calame and seconded by Commissioner Trzcinski.

Commissioner Calame	Aye	Commissioner Trzcinski	Aye
Commissioner DiGiacomio	Aye	Chairman Forschler	Aye
Commissioner Weiland	Aye		

Motion carried 5-0.

The minutes for the June 6, 2019 special meeting will be put on the July meeting agenda.

FINANCIALS:

Having reviewed the vouchers, a motion to pay the bills per the abstract dated as of May 31, 2019 was made by Commissioner Trzcinski and seconded by Commissioner Weiland.

The Clinton Volunteer Fire Department did an excellent job on the installation dinner. Thank you. \$9.00 will be paid to the company.

Commissioner Weiland	Aye	Commissioner Calame	Aye
Commissioner Trzcinski	Aye	Chairman Forschler	Aye
Commissioner DiGiacomio	Aye		

Motion carried 5-0.

A motion to accept the bank statement for the period ending on May 31, 2019 and in agreement with that noted on balance sheet as put forward by Mr. Passikoff with no exceptions made by Chairman Forschler and seconded by Commissioner Calame. Commissioner Calame referred to page 6 of the balance sheet and questions why \$4,066 has been spent on diesel already. The budgeted amount is \$5,000. The board directed Mr. Simon to research what charges are being put in there and make sure they are appropriate. On the same page, under firematic repairs, \$1,590 has been spent and nothing was budgeted for 2019. Mr. Simon will look into both categories and will send out an email and report his findings at the next meeting. Commissioner Calame asked when the board pays the LOSAP contribution. Chairman Forschler

had emailed Mr. Simon to prepare a check for tonight's meeting but Mr. Simon did not see the communication. Mr. Passikoff said the board can add the check to the current abstract by motion.

A motion was made by Chairman Forschler and seconded by Commissioner Calame authorizing Mr. Simon to prepare a check for the full LOSAP payment of \$100,000 to be paid as soon as the check can be signed. Commissioner Calame agreed with the full payment and said the check goes to RBC, not Penflex. Penflex is the administrator of the funds. Chairman Forschler said the sum we are paying of \$100,000 is in excess of the approximately \$87,300 that was requested in an effort to hasten the fully funded aspect of the LOSAP plan and it remains underfunded.

Commissioner Calame	Aye	Commissioner Trzcinski	Aye
Commissioner DiGiacomo	Aye	Chairman Forschler	Aye
Commissioner Weiland	Aye		

Motion carried 5-0.

AUD – Mr. Passikoff said the AUD has been filed. He will send a PDF copy of it to the commissioners. Mr. Simon has a copy for the town and for the treasurer and secretary. The board directed Mr. Simon to post the AUD on the website and the secretary to file it with the town.

Independent audit update – Mr. Passikoff said the RBT folks were at his office today. They have a total of two man days, 16 hours, of field work versus 1.5 hours spent last year. They had some questions that needed more information, nothing serious. Chairman Forschler asked what is causing the delay. It is June 12th. We are paying them a lot more money and wanted the audit in on time and now we will fail. Mr. Passikoff said he was out of the office for a time due to illness and that slowed things down. The draft should be done by the July meeting. The board should have the draft by the July meeting

38-1 vehicle update – Mr. Simon said the only bill he has is for the vehicle itself. He does not have any printed bill yet.

FIRE POLICE: Tim Odell N/A

DEPARTMENT: Monthly calls: 6 Year to Date: 37 through 5/31/19

Car 1 – Don Estes

- The district has suffered a loss with the death of Timothy McCormack. The professionalism, coordination and support of the company in the last few days have been incredible and Chief Estes said he could not be prouder. The family has requested to use this facility for the post funeral reception on Tuesday, June 18th and they have requested that 38-12 be at the funeral home Monday afternoon and evening for the visitation and Tuesday morning for the funeral so 12 will be out of service from Sunday night at 1800 hours until Tuesday at 1800 hours. We have mutual aid coverage lined up

for when the vehicle will be out of service. The station will be staffed while we are not here. A motion was made by Chairman Forschler and seconded by Commissioner Calame to allow the department to take 12 out of service for the period of time stated to be at the wake and funeral service of Tim McCormack and that the station be utilized on Tuesday for the reception.

Commissioner Weiland	Aye	Commissioner Calame	Aye
Commissioner Trzcinski	Aye	Chairman Forschler	Aye
Commissioner DiGiacomio	Aye		

Motion carried 5-0.

Commissioner Trzcinski said if there will be alcohol served, we need to get an insurance rider and Chief Estes said, yes, beer will be available on Tuesday. The funeral service is at 1000 hours at St. Mary's Church in Poughkeepsie.

- There were six calls for May which brings us to 37 fire calls for the year which is down by about 30%.
- Waterway will be here on July 5th doing hose tests and ladder tests.
- We are applying for a DEC grant for forestry gear for firefighters for grass and brush fires so they are not wearing interior gear into these situations. It costs about \$500 to suit up a firefighter. The goal of the Chief staff is to first fit those who are active, essentially interiors. The grant would get us six sets of gear.
- There is a Human Resources professional coming in on July 24th to administer our workplace violence and sex harassment class. This is two of the four mandatory modules that all members must participate in to be OSHA certified to respond in 2020. We will have to provide certain make ups. If you are not away, you must be here. There is a \$200 charge for this class.
- We are only lacking two license copies for the non-drivers which are for two less than active responders.
- Sue deHaan, Bob Simon, Donna, David and Patty VanLeuven and Chief Estes went to a carbon monoxide class recently. It was a great class and we learned a lot. We will be having a drill in the fall when carbon monoxide becomes a more prevalent problem.
- New chief vehicle – the lettering is done and we picked it up the other day. They did not have the invoice ready. We were quoted a price of approximately \$125 on the lettering. The radio hookup will be no more than \$1,000. It will be \$6,000 and change to hook up the lights, sirens, and emergency lights. This is truly a chief's vehicle command post. And it does have a backup system with a camera.

Car 2 – Jim Bathrick

- We have the following on order from MES: four portable COD detectors, a mini halogen for 71, and a universal shovel for 61.
- Still waiting to hear back from Dan on the masks. The chief staff does not feel it is worth getting the old masks retrofitted.
- This past Saturday night we had a pump detail. A resident had six feet of water (108,000 gallons) in their basement. They could not praise the company more for the work we

did. A flooded basement becomes a confined space with different hazards, i.e. electrical, carbon monoxide. The basement was flooded and not a single breaker was tripped. The water went up to the outlets and kept on going and the breaker was still on. The good news was the oil tank didn't float. We could've lost people and the homeowners were very appreciative.

Car 3 – Kevin Russell

- Handed Commissioner Trzcinski all the information he needs to get replacement titles.
- Drill June 20 – Chief Russell's job is letting him bring a truck here so he can explain the impact of propane. He is trying to get a video.
- There will be two bills for 38 68 - tires for the back and the exhaust. The tires dry rotted and the exhaust rusted off due to sitting outside. We put on more of a snow tire so it will be less likely to get stuck in winter. 38 12 still has the buzzer going off when someone hooks in the seat belt in passenger side. It drives you nuts and leads to the temptation to not buckle up.
- Chief Russell took apart the exit light that was not working, as pointed out by the Safety Committee, but it was not fixable so he purchased another one and installed it.
- Pagers – He took the pagers to A-1 and turned them in and in exchange we now have 10 to 12 pagers ready to go. This is a cost savings of about \$360.
- The license plates on car 1 and boat are the old style. We may want to get the new style that says ECFD. Chairman Forschler said official plates are not transferrable. Commissioner Trzcinski will look into that.

SUPPORT: N/A

RESCUE: Susan deHaan Monthly Calls: 3 Year to Date: 37

- We have had 9 calls already this month.
- As a follow up to the services on Monday and Tuesday, Ms. deHaan will contact NDP to see if we can have ALS coverage and if they will consider stationing an ambulance nearby.
- Training – As a follow up to the carbon monoxide training, she got three copies of the silver book which has the symptoms as to what happens with different haz mat materials. The book will be put in 38-71, 38-7, and the chief's car.
- Training – Ms. deHaan thanked the board for co-sponsoring her to attend the National EMS Educator's class. She passed the first level which will allow her to do an internship and NDP and EMT classes. She has to do a number of lab hours and teaching hours then takes the national exam after which she will be able to hold and teach EMT and CFR courses so we will be able to do them in house.

SAFETY: Chairman Forschler

- Committee meeting held May 29th. The minutes from the February meeting were read and approved. Some major deficiencies were found and some have been corrected including the faulty exit light, the clogged gutters, and the buzzer for the passenger seat in 38-12. The plumber looked at the shower and will get back to us – the problem is not in the shower head. We are looking into getting exhaust hose repairs for 38-63. 61 and 12 do not need it. It was suggested that we consider taking the hose from 12 and switch it off.

Port-O-Potties – Chief Russell suggested obtaining a couple for Tuesday since it is anticipated a large number of people will attend. A motion was made by Commissioner Trzcinski and seconded by Chairman Forschler to provide up to \$1,500 to assist the company’s efforts for Tim McCormack’s funeral.

Commissioner Calame	Aye	Commissioner Trzcinski	Aye
Commissioner DiGiacomo	Aye	Chairman Forschler	Aye
Commissioner Weiland	Aye		

Motion carried 5-0. Mr. Simon was directed to make out a check to the ECFD for \$1,500.

45/55 waiver – Mr. MacLeod said the letter with the certification went in shortly after last month’s meeting and he has not heard back from administrator as of this date.

Town of Washington (TOW) – As a follow up to the June 6th special meeting, Commissioner Weiland circulated a draft letter regarding the properties in the TOW that are covered by the ECFD and the four properties not covered by the TOW and the Millbrook Fire District which are in the TOW. The contract specifies the contract zone and these four properties are not part of the zone, two of which are off of Hickory Hill and two by the church. Attachment A to the contract has the description of the coverage area. Commissioner Trzcinski said that if another contract is done, each individual parcel that is covered needs to be named. Mr. MacLeod suggested the following changes to the draft letter: change “mil” rate to “tax” rate as that is a more commonly used phrase, change \$24.578 to \$24,578, and in the third paragraph, To go forward without a contract, change “will” to “may” still leave the subject parcels covered under mutual aid. Commissioner Trzcinski said the current existing 2019 contract between Millbrook and TOW excludes the area that ECFD currently covers so the TOW would have to renegotiate with Millbrook. Mutual aid is specifically for fire, not ambulance. Mr. MacLeod said how the TOW district deals with losing coverage on these properties is a matter for them, it is not part of ECFD’s bailiwick.

A motion was made by Chairman Forschler and seconded by Commissioner Trzcinski that the Board authorize Commissioner Weiland to sign the letter with the intent of sending to the Town of Washington with the changes suggested by Mr. MacLeod as follows: change “mil” rate to “tax” rate, change the period in \$24.578 to a comma, change “will” to “may” so the first

sentence in the third paragraph will read “To go forward without a contract may still leave the subject parcels covered under mutual aid.”

Commissioner Calame	Aye	Commissioner Trzcinski	Aye
Commissioner DiGiacomio	Aye	Chairman Forschler	Aye
Commissioner Weiland	Aye		

Membership – n/a

Facilities committee – Commissioner Calame said a facilities needs committee needs to be established and made up of two commissioners to be appointed by the chair and that a facilities need advisory committee be appointed by the chair to include the same two commissioners who would be serving on the basic facilities needs committee plus two officers from the department and one citizen from the community with no ties to the department or district.

A motion was made by Commissioner Calame and seconded by Commissioner Weiland that a Facility Needs Committee be established to arrange for a professional assessment of the need for the improvement and/or replacement of our current facilities by independent experts. The committee shall be composed of two commissioners selected by the Chairman of the Board of Commissioners. There shall be a Facility Needs Advisory Committee composed of the same two commissioners, two officers from the department, and a citizen with no ties to the department or district, to be selected by the chair with the approval of the board. The board chair shall designate one of the two commissioners as the chair of the Advisory Committee. The Facility needs Committee is hereby authorized to spend up to \$5,000 from the current district surplus for the services of independent experts, subject to the prior approval of the board. The initial assessment of the Facility Needs Committee shall be submitted to the board no later than the end of the year. Commissioner Weiland said to have a citizen independent of the district would negate all of the residents of the district. Commissioner Calame said no ties defined by the code of ethics to the membership or the department or the district board. Commissioner Weiland said no ties is ambiguous. Spouses have ties to the board. Commissioner Calame said the code of ethics touches on that. Commissioner DiGiacomio asked why there has to be two committees. Make it simple and have just one and call it an advisory committee. The committee can make recommendations to the board but can't spend money without the approval of the board anyway. The two commissioners would commission the study.

Commissioner Weiland	Nay	Commissioner Calame	Aye
Commissioner Trzcinski	Abstain	Chairman Forschler	Nay
Commissioner DiGiacomio	Nay		

Motion fails 3-1-1

A motion was made by Chairman Forschler and seconded by Commissioner Weiland that an Advisory Committee be established to advise the district commissioners on improvements and/or replacement of the current facility by independent experts. The committee shall be composed of two commissioners selected by the chairman of the board, two officers selected

by the department, and a citizen with no ties as defined by the code of ethics selected by the chair of the district board. Commissioner Weiland said the advisory committee should be appointed by the chairman of the board of commissioners. The motion was changed to read the chairman will appoint two commissioners and two officers at the discretion of the department and up to two citizens selected by the chair with approval by the board.

Commissioner Weiland	Aye	Commissioner Calame	Aye
Commissioner Trzcinski	Aye	Chairman Forschler	Aye
Commissioner DiGiacomo	Aye		

Motion carried 5-0.

Appoint committee – Chairman Forschler appointed Commissioners Calame and DiGiacomo to be on the committee. The department is authorized and requested to appoint two officers, either company or department, to the facilities advisory committee to formulate a formal assessment of the current facilities of its needs therein. Chief Estes appointed himself and Kevin Russell. Chairman Forschler will look for suggestions from the board over the next week for citizens to sit on the committee.

Firehouse land project – Commissioner Weiland has contacted the engineer for the town who will do a quick walk on Friday morning and there is one other engineer that he may speak to – an engineer who is a compliance engineer for the Tappan Zee Bridge and who runs his own firm to analyze and run projects. There will be no cost to the district to get this input. We also need the approval of the NYS Cemetery Board to get an easement. Commissioner Weiland has spoken to the President of the Board who has said he has no problem granting an easement. Commissioner Weiland will move ahead.

Ice Mahn – Mr. Simon left him a message and as of this date has not received a response.

Blue Bird parade truck – Currently, it would appear the district owns it. A commitment was made at the end of 2012 or 2013 relative to repairs to blue bird. There have been suggestions we offer it to the company for the price of \$1 but what do we do with previous commitments. Commissioner Calame asked what evidence is there of previous commitments. Chief Estes has not found anything in the minutes but said he will do additional research as to what commitments were made by previous boards. Chairman Forschler said this board can formulate a motion with the intent of honoring previous commitments yet getting the district out from under the burden of the Blue Bird and giving it to the department. Chief Estes agrees saying this is an antique apparatus and should not belong to the board, but it is held dear to the company members. He said one of the commitments is that Blue Bird be painted red again.

Chairman Forschler said he has had a communication from Mike Damp who is pursuing the Dutchess County Sheriff's office for traffic control for Tuesday.

Reserve fund legitimization – As a follow up to the discussion held at the June 6th special meeting, Commissioner Weiland spoke to Eve Ashworth whose company's strength is the ability to graphically lay things out – the look of the piece that is sent out to the public is important. Phillippa Weiland works for Ashworth. Would the board be interested in speaking to her for assistance in communicating to the public. Chairman Forschler contacted Jean Revelard from Dover who can work within a small budget. Commissioner Calame thinks the board needs to be closer to what we think are the salient points before talking to someone. Per the June 6th meeting, Chairman Forschler sent his five points to Commissioner Weiland as did Commissioners Calame and DiGiacomio. Commissioner Weiland said he will have a wrap up of the points submitted by the commissioners by the end of the weekend. The board agreed to have Commissioner Weiland ask Eve Ashworth if she can attend the July 10th meeting.

Firefly proposal – A motion was made by Commissioner Calame and seconded by Commissioner Weiland to accept the proposal that we have from Firefly as written. Tony Hill will prepare one sheet presenting the idea that provides a starting point that starts discussions with the board, the company and eventually the public. This is complicated and Tony will break it down. This is a way to move into dialogue as to what we would gain or lose with this plan and what can be modified and it will include case studies. This approach will allow a number of changes. Chairman Forschler asked if this will be a specific case study to us. Commissioner Calame said the idea is to pattern on cases inside our own program. It will take exact cases as they exist and show in a hypothetical manner in the context of our district and our program. Chairman Forschler asked if there are other districts enrolled in this type of plan and if so, was there a termination and a move to this new plan or was it a new plan. Commissioner Calame is aware of one other district where it is implemented which Tony Hill did while at Penflex and it was a winding down of the existing plan and adoption of a plan like this. One option is to stay with the existing plan and modify. It would not be a termination but a winding down. It would be an overhaul of the program to start in a new mode based on fixed length annuities. Commissioner Weiland said there is a conflict between item 1 and item 4. Item 1 will describe the technical procedures of administering this type of LOSAP assuming it will be a new plan in the future and item 4 states we will describe how this process can be applied to the current LOSAP. Commissioner Calame said Tony is seeking to layout and present a defined benefit program but then how it is paid out over what length of time is a question to be determined. Even if you close down the existing plan, you can still move into a new plan with this fixed length of time. Another possibility is to modify the existing plan. You would freeze it, wind it down, and do a complete payout. That is the type of plan Tony is proposing but he would show options to modify. Chairman Forschler asked if he provided estimates for a paid staff and ambulance contract and Commissioner Calame said no. Chairman Forschler said the question is do we want to spend \$1,250 for Tony Hill's assessment for drastic changes to the plan. He said he is not really cognizant of how it will affect staffing. Active members are employees of the board and they will react to benefits being taken away. Commissioner Calame said we want people to know what we are talking about and what our options are. Chairman Forschler said we heard from Tony - why do we need this? Commissioner Calame said we need to see how this

will work in real life and this one page description will accomplish that and then the people will know what the idea is – he believes this is worth the money. Commissioner Trzcinski said he suggests that if Chairman Forschler sees a one-third cost reduction in the proposed changes he would make to LOSAP, that too should be laid out in a one page format for comparison purposes. Chairman Forschler said when we met with Tony Hill, the real payroll cost which is the difference in your liability from one year to the next as 22 or 23 members accrue 50 points was about \$60,000. If we institute more stringent guidelines and don't award points for social, meetings, officer points, etc., activities that don't enhance or support the mission of which is to provide fire and EMS coverage, roughly 14 people would have achieved 50 points under these guidelines. If 22 members increase liability by \$60,000, 14 members would increase our liability by \$40,000. Commissioner Calame said we need to be clear what the 7 out of 21 not getting 50 points represents – fire, rescue, drills, training and work details related to operational matters of the district, and quick calls. Chairman Forschler said if we become more stringent, only two thirds of members would qualify for 50 points unless we incent them to participate in activities that are pertinent to the mission of the district- in that case, we gain anyway. Commissioner Calame said he is totally in favor of what Chairman Forschler is suggesting but it is not a solution for dealing with the LOSAP plan and obligations and risk and cost. Chairman Forschler pointed out that with any plan, there is risk. Commissioner Calame said we can learn more about this if Tony describes this plan and then we will each apply our judgment. The idea of having the current plan hanging over the taxpayers in this district when we have the fifth highest tax rate in Dutchess County says there is a lot of risk. When we have a plan vulnerable to the stock market and people who continue to earn with limits set to 40 years and our plan is so new, we have no one who will hit that for a long time adds to the risk. The idea of affixing a length of time reduces the risk. He believes it needs to be done in addition to Chairman Forschler's idea. Commissioner Calame does not think more a more stringent point system is enough given the million dollar liability hanging over the district. Chairman Forschler said residents of the Town of Clinton voted to fund the library, 90% which is payroll. The payroll cost of manning a fire department are far in excess of training a librarian and with hours that are awful. There is also the susceptibility to PTSD and many other issues linked to first responders. We've made the parallel that active members are the district's employees – how will they react to this? Chairman Forschler said he would not have voted for the current plan if he had been on the board, not with a 55 entitlement age. If we built this liability up over 10 years, you are not going to wave a magic wand to reduce or get rid of it. Commissioner Weiland said we are not getting rid of it but potentially changing the liability by reducing risk and getting out of the stock market. We put in on the investments on the promise it would grow our money and it has not grown the way it should. It is a substantial risk to have funds. If the money is passed on to who it is owed to, they could grow that money on their own. There is concern as to how that money will be passed on and future earnings or awards would be contingent at a rate that is sufficient that would be rewarding to those people who are volunteering to do what you do. The past commitment would be honored. Chairman Forschler said the commitment made did not have an end point. Commissioner Weiland said it does – it has an actuarial endpoint. Chairman Forschler said we would be ending it far earlier.

Commissioner Calame said a concern stated was the members would not get what they were entitled to if paid a lump sum or multi year settlement. He said when you say commitment, is every commitment equal in LOSAP. Points earned were a commitment too and if you take those away, you have the same problem. Chairman Forschler does not agree. The backbone of the department would view the reduction of points awarded to a large extent as a positive aspect because an incentive can become a disincentive if it is inappropriately applied.

Commissioner Trzcinski said the 25-year change from 40 years will also affect key people's thoughts. Three alternatives without rocking the world of the current staff: the tier one tier two approach, the change in the way points are awards, and the 40, 25, 30 or whatever is the appropriate cap. Those approaches are a lot less potentially harmful. Chairman Forschler asked do we want to spend \$1,250 to hear what Tony has to say. Are we willing to mitigate the risk of enacting the changes Commissioner Calame suggests because that risk far outweighs the risk of the stock market going up or down. Commissioner Trzcinski said it is not just the risk of the stock market - people are aging out and still getting points and the support of points is getting soft. Chairman Forschler thought the reduction of points will address that.

Commissioner Trzcinski said it won't be significant enough. There are other things that could be. Just taking points away from officers will not be enough. Commissioner Calame said if people understand what we are talking about and how this would work, we could debate on the basis of facts that are common. What do the people know? Why not have an open discussion and how would it really work and what it would mean. As far as commitments, points are part of what was adopted by the board and they are commitments. Commissioner DiGiacomo said what Chairman Forschler is suggesting does align with the mission statement of the board. He said he does not agree with Tony Hill as far as changing LOSAP that drastically. We would have to keep spending money to get more details. Chairman Forschler asked for Mr. MacLeod's opinion as a member of a fire department, not as legal advice. Mr. MacLeod said he is not giving legal advice but is speaking as a member of a fire department for 40 some years. LOSAP can provide incentive for enough people to keep showing up or encourage hangers on. We have a similar thing in New Hackensack. His opinion is you will always have hangers on. If you've given something to someone who is volunteering and then take it away, in New Hackensack there would be a drop off in participation which would come at the most inconvenient time possible. Chairman Forschler asked Chief Estes his opinion of the modification. Chief Estes has spoken with the members. He will state clearly that he supports the reduction in points. He has already talked to many members and they will swallow it. Our mission is not fish fries, dinners, etc. It is to serve and protect the community. Our members will do so. Elimination of the social aspects of the points will not go against the members - you will not have members saying you are taking away that commitment. That is not what the point system is about. If there is a fear of commitment of social points, officer points, disappearing, Chief Estes said it will not affect the members. They will agree to it graciously. He said he agrees with the fact that LOSAP should be studied and looked at but he asks that the board not close the door, please. As things stand now, Chief Estes said he can guarantee this department won't have paid members within five years. If you make this change, you may. However, change it up to new members coming in at a Tier 2 and change the collection age to

65, that is absolutely fine. If there are members just collecting social points, they are not best serving the community or the mission which is to serve and protect. By taking away social points, you will have members who will not make points. He endorses and supports this. Chief Estes said I beseech you, make the change in 2020 to tiers and change your points and see what happens there without going off in the weeds. Try the obvious first and see how the savings work before going further. Commissioner Calame said with the points also comes the 25-year limit. Chief Estes does not think there will be a problem with the 25-year limit. We have very few members who are 75. There are some that will be that much of a value add to the district. There is the age group that is the core who trains the young ones. Commissioner Calame said if you look at five key people who are all interior and apply the 25-year limit to them instead of the 40-year limit, it expires when they are 42 to 45 years old. Four of these five key people at 42 to 45 will be unable to earn any more points. That comes at a crucial time and would seem to be some sort of disincentive coming at the wrong time. 55 has produced a minimally compensated core of people because they can get paid at 55. Benefits paid out were \$75,000 plus this past year. The amount we owe every year goes up between \$6,000 or \$7,000 given the people we have right now earning 50 points. Chief Estes said he has been the top responder for the history of department. That said, where is everybody else. When someone joins, life changes and of the people who may be that core, how many of them will stay with the department for the length of their career – not many – it just doesn't happen.

Commissioner Weiland	Nay	Commissioner Calame	Aye
Commissioner Trzcinski	Aye	Chairman Forschler	Nay
Commissioner DiGiacomio	Nay		

Motion fails 3-2. Commissioner Weiland noted that his decision to vote no was based on the conflict between items 1 and 4 of Mr. Hill's proposal.

Firehouse as a polling place – Commissioner Weiland went to the Board of Elections. The course of action for next year is to not sign the letter that is sent by the Board of Elections naming the firehouse as a polling place and send them a letter objecting to the use of the firehouse as a polling place listing the reasons why, one of which is the machines cannot be secured as the firehouse has too many people with access. Another reason is during the time the firehouse is being used, the equipment would need to be stored outside.

Annexation process – At the last meeting, the board asked Mr. MacLeod to look into the annexation process. There are two paths to take. One would be if there is a petition filed by at least half of the property value of the property owners in the affected area. If a petition is filed, the Town of Washington (TOW) has to have a public hearing and the TOW town board approves it along with the Town of Clinton town board – both town boards must approve it. If there is no petition, both town boards have to approve the expansion after a public hearing. You need a very detailed description of the properties involved in the expansion, not just tax id numbers but a meets and bounds description of each property. The simplest, most effective way to accomplish that is to hire a title searcher. It is intensive paperwork. You would need the property boundaries prior to the public hearing and the board approvals. Commissioner

Weiland asked if it would be appropriate to let the property owners know they can petition the TOW – we could inform them of the issue and possible resolution in one letter. Mr. MacLeod said that would be appropriate. Chairman Forschler asked if we want to send a letter to the residents. The board agreed that after the TOW either does or does not respond within a reasonable amount of time to the letter we send, then we can get the letters ready for the residents. Those letters should go out no later than August.

Safe – Commissioner Trzcinski said we can't get in safe in the chief's office. It appears the battery is empty and the key does not work.

A motion was made by Chairman Forschler and seconded by Commissioner Trzcinski to authorize Mr. Simon up to \$300 to contact a locksmith to open up the safe in the chief's office.

Commissioner Calame	Aye	Commissioner Trzcinski	Aye
Commissioner DiGiacomio	Aye	Chairman Forschler	Aye
Commissioner Weiland	Aye		

Public Comment:

Tony Irkliewskij asked about the arrangements for Tim McCormack. Miller and Sons is doing the visitation on Monday night with the fireman's service at 1900 hours, the funeral will be at St. Mary's in Poughkeepsie on Tuesday and the department will be doing a reception at the firehouse after the funeral on Tuesday.

A motion was made by Chairman Forschler and seconded by Chairman DiGiacomio to adjourn the meeting at 9:54 p.m.

Commissioner Weiland	Aye	Commissioner DiGiacomio	Aye
Commissioner Trzcinski	Aye	Chairman Forschler	Aye
Commissioner Calame	Aye		

Motion carried 5-0

The next regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners will be held on Wednesday, July 10, 2019 at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Buechele, Secretary
East Clinton Fire District