

**EAST CLINTON FIRE DISTRICT**

July 12, 2023

**COMMISSIONERS MEETING – FINAL**

Regular Meeting 7:00

**COMMISSIONERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Stephen Forschler, Chairman  
Kevin Fierro  
Howard Shapiro  
Russell Tompkins

**COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:**

Commissioner DiGiacomio

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:**

Robert Simon, Treasurer  
James Passikoff, Accountant, left at 7:20 p.m.  
Roderick MacLeod, Attorney arrived at 7:00 p.m.

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

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

- RBC Statement June 1, 2023 through June 30, 2023 – Commissioners copied.
- RBC Prospectus – to Commissioner Shapiro
- From M&T Bank – Month End Collateral Statement Dated July 3, 2023 – Mr. Simon was copied.
- 2023 Lagrange Local 3813 Annual Clay Shoot – To Maryann Thompsett.

**MINUTES:**

A motion was made by Commissioner Tompkins and seconded by Commissioner Shapiro to approve the regular meeting minutes of June 14, 2023 as presented.

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|-----------------------|-----|----------------------|-----|
| Commissioner Fierro   | Aye | Commissioner Shapiro | Aye |
| Commissioner Tompkins | Aye | Chairman Forschler   | Aye |

Motion carried 4-0.

**FINANCIALS:**

A motion was made by Commissioner Fierro and seconded by Commissioner Shapiro to pay the bills per the abstract dated June 30, 2023.

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|-----------------------|-----|---------------------|-----|
| Commissioner Shapiro  | Aye | Commissioner Fierro | Aye |
| Commissioner Tompkins | Aye | Chairman Forschler  | Aye |

Motion carried 4-0.

**Independent audit** – Mr. Passikoff said the auditors have all the requested information and are still processing it. Mr. Simon will follow up tomorrow on an anticipated completion date.

**Certificate of Deposit** - Mr. Passikoff contacted two banks – M&T and TD. TD never got back to him. M&T offered 4.25% for a three month and 4.4% for a six month.

A motion was made by Chairman Forschler and seconded by Commissioner Fierro to authorize the purchase of a three-month CD from M&T at 4.25%.

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

Motion carried 4-0. Mr. Passikoff is authorized to buy a three-month CD at 4.25%. Mr. Simon and Mr. Fierro will be the signatories and will get together in the next couple of days to make this happen.

A motion was made by Chairman Forschler and seconded by Commissioner Tompkins to accept the bank statement for the period ending on June 30, 2023 and in agreement with that noted on the balance sheet as put forward by Mr. Simon and Mr. Passikoff.

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

Motion carried 4-0.

**Budget** – Mr. Passikoff will put together the worksheet for the August meeting for the preliminary budget workshop which will be held on August 31, 2023, 5:00 p.m. The preliminary budget has to be filed with the town clerk by September 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**Car 1** Don Estes            Monthly Calls: 7            Year to Date: 56

- The hose and ladder testing was today. We will not have to replace any hose. The invoice is forthcoming.
- The snow chains dropped on 38 and did not retract. Chief Estes has lifted them temporarily so it is not out of service. He will keep the board informed.
- New truck progress - It has to go back for lettering. The fabricator was here taking measurements. We hope to have the pump rack done soon. As soon as it's done, we will start disassembling the old one with the lights, etc. Our in-service goal is now Labor Day.
- The day drill this month was on water ops and went very well.
- The evening drill is Monday July 17<sup>th</sup> and will be Landing Zone operations at Rhinebeck high school and will involve classroom and set up procedures for an LZ. We will be going over as a group, leaving at 1730.
- 61 has been serviced. The other rigs are to be taken for annual inspection and re-check.
- We have five interiors doing bail out this month.
- The AC on Car 1 is not working. They can't tell what the problem is until they take it apart. The re-charge did not work. The worst case estimate is \$2,483 but they are doubtful it will be that much.

A motion was made by Commissioner Fierro and seconded by Commissioner Tompkins to authorize up to \$2,483 to fix the AC on Car 1.

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

Commissioner Fierro                      Aye                      Chairman Forschler                      Aye

Motion carried 4-0. Northeast will be doing the repair.

- Two new drivers, David VanLeuven and Tim Bathrick, are now certified in driving and pumping. They were certified by all three certifiers and demonstrated outstanding ability operating pumps. However, they won't pump at a structure fire yet.
- There are two members left that need to be certified on the combi tool.
- Rehab has been instructed to stand by for any call over two hours in hot weather.
- There is a new dry hydrant going in at the pond at the former Eiffel's (down the road from Commissioner Tompkins). It is the pond by the road. This will be an excellent water source and great for us.

**Car 2** – Jim Bathrick – Not present.

**Car 3** – Chris Gammone – Not present

**EMS** - Susan deHaan                      Monthly Calls:    16                      Year To Date:    71

- Mutual Aid – There was one call to West Clinton, one to Pleasant Valley which was cancelled just as we responded so we still went, and one to Milan this morning.
- Ambulance stretcher power loader update from Mr. Simon – The person working on it was in an accident so Sean has taken over. As of the day before yesterday, he was having the part shipped to his house and once he receives it, he will head down to fix the stretcher. Mr. Simon will get an update tomorrow.
- Attended county meeting with dispatch – the 911 center is changing the vendor. It won't impact us. They will be dispatching calls quicker and priorities will be changing to alleviate the burden on ALS.
- Carol Mackin put in for a grant in collaboration with the rescue squad from a community foundation and was approved for teaching CPR and first aid for pediatric (infants and children). The class will be Saturday, July 15<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 to 2:00, at the Town Hall.
- New EMT Sean Carroll passed his written test and has already been lead on a few calls. Joseph Horesky takes his test on Friday.

**Town of Washington** – Commissioner Shapiro spoke to the Town of Washington supervisor who had no problem having a meeting with himself and Chief Estes. However, because the Town of Washington pays a lot of money for an ambulance through the Village of Millbrook who owns the Millbrook Fire Department, he wants to include the mayor of Millbrook, Tim Collopy, in the discussions. Mr. MacLeod said East Clinton has no relationship with the Village of Millbrook. Understanding the Town of Washington has a contractual relationship for fire and EMS, they would have to work that out. East Clinton would not enter into negotiations or discussion with the village on how to protect the Town of Washington. Chairman Forschler said all we want to do is find out if the Town of Washington will entertain a discussion. Mr. MacLeod said he has no problem meeting with both the Town of Washington and the Village of

Millbrook, but the village has no authority if the Town of Washington gives up those properties. It must be made very clear that East Clinton has no relationship with the village. The only parties in this transaction would be the town and fire district. The village would not be a party to this transaction except that the town and village have a contract to provide services, but East Clinton is not part of that. Commissioner Shapiro suggested going the route of getting the signatures from the property owners instead. Mr. MacLeod said there is nothing wrong with advertising a meeting between the three entities taking place, but it should not be a public hearing at this point. Commissioner Shapiro said it would be an informal meeting with a representative or two from each entity to discuss if the Town of Washington is open to the idea that these people are better serviced (and most think they are currently serviced) by the East Clinton Fire Department. Commissioner Shapiro will set up a meeting with himself, another board member, Chief Estes and the Town of Washington for this discussion. If the Town of Washington wants to invite the Village of Millbrook, that will be up to them.

**Fire Police** - Jim Ruffell Sr. – Not present.

**Company/Membership** – Maryann Thompsett, President

- We were allotted \$1,800 to get Servpro in to clean the carpets, bathrooms, and kitchen. Ms. Thompsett said the stove has not been cleaned in recent memory and desperately needs it. We would like to use the money allotted for Servpro to get the stove cleaned after the lobster dinner. Chairman Forschler said that money was approved for Servpro and made the argument that the district never uses the stove. Commissioner Shapiro said however, the district owns the stove so the district should maintain the stove.
- Ms. Thompsett asked about electricity for community day. That will be discussed later in the meeting.
- The cornhole tournament will be held on July 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- We will try again for a Renegades game on August 27<sup>th</sup>.
- Membership
  - Patty VanLeuven is leaving social and applying for Fire Police. Her application was handed to the secretary and will be sent for a background check.
  - Chairman Forschler said Gavin Burns has cleared his background check. Ms. Thompsett needs to notify him he is eligible for his physical.

**Bond Counsel Proposal** – The board is ready to send the RFP out to the bond counsel firms. Mr. MacLeod will provide the secretary with the names and addresses of the firms to send the RFP to. Commissioner Shapiro said the Millbrook Central School District, of which he serves on the board, is in the process of preparing for bonds for various propositions. He brought examples of the information that the bond counsel will provide which is what the average cost will be to the taxpayers broken down. The school is using the Palumbo Group.

**Tires 38-7** - If a vehicle needs tires, we need to get tires. Ms. deHaan said at a call, someone noticed our tires were bald and wanted to buy us new tires and have them balanced and mounted. Mr. MacLeod said you can accept donations from the public with a stipulation that the donation is to be used for tires. If the tires cost more than the donation amount, the district will spend the additional amount. Mr. Simon said the resident's proposal was to order tires from Amazon and have someone in Hyde Park who has offered to do this mount and balance for free. They do not know what kind of tires. Mr. Simon will get more details. Mr. MacLeod said the tires must be approved by the board. Currently, the tires on 38-7 are more like passenger tires. Do we want to get more aggressive with the tread, such as all-season tires. Chief Estes just bought two all-season tires for 38-1 for \$500. These tires should be similar so for all four would be around \$1,000.

A motion was made by Chairman Forschler and seconded by Commissioner Shapiro to accept the donation of four tires from this individual as long as they are equal to or better than the tires on the vehicle currently. We will accept the donation and if the cost exceeds what they are willing to give, the board will happily accept the tires and pay the rest.

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| Commissioner Shapiro | Aye | Commissioner Shapiro | Aye |
| Commissioner Fierro  | Aye | Chairman Forschler   | Aye |

Motion carried 4-0. Commissioner Tompkins said these people should be recognized for their generosity and suggested inviting them to the lobster dinner or the annual dinner.

**LOSAP** – Chairman Forschler said the revised LOSAP Defined Contribution Plan annual report is in everyone's folder. Please bring any questions to the next meeting.

**Central Hudson** – Commissioner Fierro said on May 8<sup>th</sup>, he, Chief Estes and Keith Scofield (From Mike McCormack's office) met on the grounds to discuss adding power for community day and for moving forward with a new firehouse. On June 28<sup>th</sup>, they met with Brian Finn, District Director from Central Hudson. They showed him the telephone pole that was rotting at the base and he entered a work order right away to have the pole replaced. He then suggested we contact an electrician. On July 3, a group met with Don Veith from Veith Electric and toured the area. Don provided an estimate of \$3,571 to get electric to the area with Veith donating \$1,000 of wire and the town digging the trench. Chairman Forschler said according to the purchasing policy, we need at least two verbal quotations. Mr. MacLeod said the board can decide that after extraordinary meetings and conversation with different enterprises, only one verbal quotation is necessary and the board accepts the exception to the purchasing policy. Also, the town may require a permit but should waive the fee but an electrical inspection will be required.

A motion was made by Chairman Forschler and seconded by Commissioner Tompkins that the board authorize the expenditure of \$3,571 for Veith Electric to perform the work from the written quotation of July 5<sup>th</sup> as presented at this meeting with the understanding that this is an exception to the purchasing policy because of the unusual circumstances for this purchase, and to cover town fees if applicable.

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

Motion carried 4-0. Don Veith told Commissioner Fierro as a courtesy for community day, he will let the district use 125 and 150 foot extension cords from the panel to wherever it needs to go with multiple connections. Commissioner Fierro will let Veith Electric know they can move forward and will contact Todd at the town to work out the trenching details.

**Didi Barrett** – Will be at Bean’s tomorrow from 11 to 1. Does anyone from the East Clinton Fire District want to do a 15 minute presentation? There was no response.

**Speed Limit** – Eliot Werner, Town Board liaison, said the Town Board requested reducing the speed limit in certain areas of the Salt Point Turnpike to 35 miles per hour years ago and were turned down from the state. The Town Board has decided they are going to try again to get it reduced. Mr. Werner, Chief Estes, and a Planning Board member met with the principal of the Upton Lake School and they thought this would be a good time to request the reduction since the school is increasing its capacity which could increase traffic and cars. Also, the proposed new firehouse, if approved, will be located right across the street from the school. The thought is that these two items may provide some additional leverage. Mr. Werner is contacting people to provide letters of support and asked the board if they would consider providing a letter. The thought is to ask for 35 mph from Stewarts to the post office, essentially from the Taconic to the town line. Salt Point is 35 mph in Pleasant Valley. Chief Estes thinks the best case they may get is from where the firehouse is now to the town line. Mr. Werner said the last time a traffic study was done was four or five years ago, the average speed was 45 mph. Commissioner Fierro is in favor of supplying a letter of support. Commissioner Tompkins is in favor of asking for 30 mph so that we might get 35.

A motion was made by Chairman Forschler and seconded by Commissioner Fierro that the board authorize Chairman Forschler to sign a letter that requests the NYS DOT to modify the speed limit from the Taconic to the town line to 30 mph. Commissioner Shapiro asked if the DPW needs to be contacted. Mr. Werner said the application goes to the DPW then goes to the state. Commissioner Shapiro thought that rather than send the application through Traffic and Safety, it might be advantageous to hand the application to the regional director. Mr. Werner said he has an 11:00 time slot with Didi Barrett tomorrow and will bring this up. Commissioner Shapiro suggested having the school request a school zone sign.

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 Fierro to adjourn to executive session at 8:10 p.m. to discuss a personnel issue.

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

Motion carried 4-0.

A motion was made by Chairman Forschler and seconded by Commissioner Fierro to return to public session at 8:20 p.m.

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|-----------------------|-----|----------------------|-----|
| Commissioner Fierro   | Aye | Commissioner Shapiro | Aye |
| Commissioner Tompkins | Aye | Chairman Forschler   | Aye |

Motion carried 4-0.

A motion was made by Chairman Forschler to accept Chris Burns into active membership. After three requests, there was no second. The motion fails.

In response to an email from Penflex, the secretary was instructed to reply that the LOD status is inactive and the person is ineligible for LOSAP.

**New business:**

- Commissioner Fierro said he has been made aware of the fact that if we deem the new firehouse as a shelter, we may be eligible for a donation. The firehouse in Tivoli was labeled a shelter and the governor donated \$100,000 to them. There are requirements in place to obtain the shelter classification. Commissioner Fierro will ask the architects what the requirements are to obtain the shelter classification and if there is a time constraint.

- Mr. Simon just became aware of a bill from Madison's in Pleasant Valley that was due in March. He prepared the voucher in the amount of \$47.75. A motion was made by Chairman Forschler and seconded by Commissioner Tompkins to authorize payment of \$47.75 to Madison's Pizza.

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|-----------------------|-----|---------------------|-----|
| Commissioner Shapiro  | Aye | Commissioner Fierro | Aye |
| Commissioner Tompkins | Aye | Chairman Forschler  | Aye |

Motion carried 4-0.

- Ms. deHaan said she needs to renew the epinephrin for the ambulance and the expenditure may be up to \$800. A motion was made by Chairman Forschler and seconded by Commissioner Tompkins to authorize the expenditure of up to \$800 to purchase new epinephrin to replace the expiring epinephrin so the rescue squad can continue to provide that service.

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|-----------------------|-----|----------------------|-----|
| Commissioner Fierro   | Aye | Commissioner Shapiro | Aye |
| Commissioner Tompkins | Aye | Chairman Forschler   | Aye |

Motion carried 4-0.

**Public Comment: None**

A motion was made by Commissioner Tompkins and seconded by Commissioner Fierro to adjourn the meeting at 8:26 p.m.

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

Motion carried 4-0.

The next meeting of the Board of Commissioners will be held on Wednesday, August 16, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. at the firehouse.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Buechele, Secretary  
East Clinton Fire District