

EAST CLINTON FIRE DISTRICT

June 15, 2022

COMMISSIONERS MEETING – DRAFT

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 7:15 p.m.

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

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Two RBC Account Statements – April 1, 2022 – April 30, 2022 and May 1, 2022 – May 31, 2022 – Commissioners copied.
- A donation to the East Clinton Fire Department from Ibrahim and Cheryl Vazquez - To Ms. Thompsett
- A donation to the East Clinton Fire Company from the Gallagher Family with a thank you note – To Ms. Thompsett
- From Marshall & Sterling dated May 19, 2022 amending the policy adding the 2005 International Tanker #3699 and increasing the premium by \$981.00 – To Ms. Buechele
- A flyer and sponsorship paper from the LaGrange Professional Firefighters for their 2022 Lagrange Local 3813 Annual Clay Shoot – To anyone interested
- Notification from DetecTogether for early cancer detection – To Chief Estes
- An ecash card from FleetPride – Trucks are no longer serviced there.
- The Spring 2022 VFIS Newsletter – To anyone interested
- Service coupons from Northeast Ford - To Chief Estes
- From Priority One dated May 2022 for ambulance billing – No interest
- Two ShelterPoint benefit postings - Chairman Forschler will post

MINUTES:

A motion was made by Commissioner DiGiacomio and seconded by Commissioner Tompkins to approve the regular meeting minutes of May 11, 2022 as presented.

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

Motion carried 5-0

FINANCIALS:

A motion was made by Commissioner Tompkins and seconded by Commissioner Shapiro to pay the bills per the abstract dated May 31, 2022. The bill from DB Graphics in the amount of \$1,400 is eligible for reimbursement from the insurance of the person who hit the chief’s vehicle. The bill from A1 Communication in the amount of \$767.45 is not eligible for reimbursement as that was for work done on Chris Gammone’s vehicle.

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

Motion carried 5-0.

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

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

Motion carried 5-0

Independent Audit – Mr. Passikoff said the board should get a draft within a couple of days. Chairman Forschler will have a telephone interview with the auditor tomorrow at 10:00 a.m. Mr. Passikoff said that should be the end of the audit as long as they received the legal end of it from Mr. MacLeod.

Mr. Passikoff added that there is about a \$100,000 market-to-market loss for LOSAP but hopefully it clears itself out. Chairman Forschler said the fund is still just around 90% funded which is great even in good financial times.

FIRE POLICE: No representative present.

DEPARTMENT:

Cars 1 – Don Estes Monthly Calls: 11 with full response. Year to Date: 52

- Mr. Gammone took over coordinating the vehicle maintenance and is doing a phenomenal job. 63 is getting checked for the oil leak. They will not repair until we see the assessment. All the other vehicles are on schedule with servicing.
- The inverter was installed on 38-68. We tested it last night and Monday and it works great and is doing what it needs to do.
- All chiefs have their individual CO2 monitors which were already used on a fire call last week. It’s good to have them on.

- The hose test will be on July 21st. Chief Estes will be there and needs another hose puller to assist. Most of the hose has not been received yet. Chief Estes said don't pay the invoice until all the items are received.
- West Clinton is getting their own frequency. It is an operational, less formal frequency that is not monitored by the county. It can be used in more informal situations that are prohibited on county frequency unless a fire ground has been assigned. It does not negate active fire ground frequency. West Clinton did the leg work and is taking the lion's share of the expense. They have the FCC license. We would share fire and fire police frequency. There is no repeater. It's a talk around. It has limitations but is more for departmental use. East Clinton would be on the hook for about \$1,000 to program our radios which would also include other surrounding towns such as Pleasant Valley and Stanford. These frequencies are limited. When asked if this would interfere with operations of West and East Clinton if both were on this frequency at the same time, Chief Estes said if that were to occur, it would be infrequent. If we were working with West Clinton, it would be a large event and we would have a fire ground assigned. The license is good for 10 years. Commissioner Tompkins asked if you are on a fire ground channel operating, can you see and hear on this frequency and Chief Estes said that is why the chief's car has two radios. At a structure fire, one is on assigned fire ground frequency and the other is for the talk around channel. You can communicate with the talk around channel at a scene were there is a fire ground frequency so you can hear everything going on. Commissioner Shapiro asked if we were signing a contract and Chief Estes said we are not signing a contract with West Clinton. Commissioner Shapiro said his concern is we could update our radios and then West Clinton could say they don't want East Clinton using their frequency anymore. Chairman Forschler said if West Clinton gets it's frequency, we would want it installed on all our radios anyway since they are a main mutual aid company. We have many occasions with a need to communicate with West Clinton, Stanford and Pleasant Valley on their frequency. This is the only way someone can communicate with Chief Estes until a fire ground frequency is assigned. Commissioner Shapiro agreed this is a good idea especially since adjoining departments will be added.

A motion was made by Chairman Forschler and seconded by Commissioner Tompkins to authorize \$1,200 for the purpose of reprogramming the portable and mobile radios with the West Clinton and all other neighboring district frequencies. Commissioner Tompkins asked if Stanford has a similar frequency and Chief Estes said yes they do as does Millbrook and Pleasant Valley. However, West Clinton has invited us to share their frequency. The others have not.

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

Motion carried 5-0.

- We did our monthly drill last night. It was a search and rescue.
- Chief Estes will be out of service June 24th to July 5th.
- A couple of our members are at a class at DCC and would like to take the rehab vehicle to the class on June 21st in the evening for the purpose of rehab, not decon. Chief Estes said it's good public relations. It will let other companies see what we have set up. A motion was made by Chairman Forschler and seconded by Commissioner Tompkins authorizing the class participants to bring the rehab vehicle to the Dutchess County Training Center on the afternoon/evening of 6/21/22 for the purpose of supporting the class.

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

Motion carried 5-0.

- The Millbrook parade is July 9th. Chief Estes is not sure what apparatus he will take. He will inform the board when they know what equipment they will bring which will remain in service.

A motion was made by Chairman Forschler and seconded by Commissioner Fierro authorizing the department to bring a piece of apparatus to the Millbrook parade on July 9, 2022 at 1700 hours.

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

Motion carried 5-0

Car 2 – Jim Bathrick – Not present.

Car 3 – Chris Gammone – Not present.

EMS - Bob Simon for Susan deHaan Monthly Calls: 13 Year To Date: 62
 Plus assist for two MVA's

- 38-7 is in Millerton for a recall to replace the rear tow links.

Membership – Maryann Thompsett, Company President

- Ms. Thompsett handed a new membership application to the secretary for Austin Burns who is applying for Fire. He lives on Creek Road in Pleasant Valley which Chief Estes said is within jurisdiction. The board agreed to send the new application out for the background check.
- Heather Fitzsimmons said they had a blood drive here in April and would like to hold another one on October 22nd in the bays. They would have to move the equipment out but it should not be too cold for that in October.

A motion was made by Chairman Forschler and seconded by Commissioner Fierro that the board authorize the company to hold a blood drive in the bays on October 22, 2022 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

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

Motion carried 5-0

- Ms. Fitzsimmons said they discussed the video concept at the company meeting. Commissioners Tompkins, Fierro and Forschler watched the presentation by the company that Ms. Fitzsimmons had contacted. Chairman Forschler said we have had minimal luck with getting people in here to see the facility. An idea we are investigating is to do a video presentation about either the facility, potentially using the architectural report as a story line, or a recruitment video or possibly both combined. The recruitment videos were short and well done. The videos were in the area of \$7,000. We have \$5,000 in the budget. It would be good if the company had some ownership in this as well. Do the commissioners think a video is a good way to communicate the inadequacies of this facility? Mike Whitton has offered to air the video on the municipal channel in Clinton, we could show it on utube and we have a Facebook page. Ms. Fitzsimmons said after a discussion on Monday, the company is interested in the idea of a video but want recruitment to be part of it. Chairman Forschler said while he thinks the video would address the recruitment need, he thinks more needs to be done on a personal level for recruitment. The flyer Salt Point had at their parade with a QC code with a link to a fillable application was a good idea. None of the commissioners had any objection to putting a link on the website for the application. Commissioner Fierro thinks for \$7,000, the videos are too short. Ms. Fitzsimmons will contact the company and ask if they can accumulate enough shots of the facility at a drill to show the inadequacies and see if he can put the facility and recruitment together in one evening. Commissioner DiGiacomio thinks the video should show the old firehouse, a proposed new firehouse, and recruitment. That should be the storyline. Commissioner Tompkins said the video needs to prove the existing inadequacies which leads to a new facility which would entice new members. Chairman Forschler said he thinks the theme needs to be what does fire service in this district look like in 25 years. We will need a new facility in 25 years. We have great equipment but our needs are people and a facility to bring this forward in the next 25 years. Commissioner Shapiro said we also need to address why the existing house cannot be brought into compliance cost effectively. Chief Estes thinks building for the future with recruitment and a facility is a great concept and both can be done very well in one video. Commissioner Tompkins said if East Clinton and West Clinton can't get membership and the town would have to go to paid services, a new building on the edge of the district could be a problem. Chief Estes said go back to ISO. You can't have one firehouse because everyone's ISO rating and

property taxes would go through the roof. Chairman Forschler said we were able to get the information out of the county to get to the ISO people. Russ Craven helped with equipment evaluations, call sheets, run sheets, drill sheets, etc. and he expects an answer very soon as to whether we can get our rating down. If we can get the 10 to an 8, residents insurance costs go from \$1,200 a year to \$800 or \$900 a year.

- **Recovered funds** – The two checks we received last month in the amount of \$3275.52 were for recovered funds. Now we need to decide where to allocate the money. We can let it ride in the general fund, put it in the equipment purchase fund, the capital improvement fund, or the emergency repair fund. Chairman Forschler suggested keeping it in the general fund until the end of the year when it becomes part of the surplus and we will decide where to put it at that time. Commissioner Tompkins said residents may question why there is money left over and why assessments aren't being lowered. Chairman Forschler said nine years ago, the equipment purchase fund had \$89,000 in it - now we have \$600,000 in the fund. Our goal is to purchase equipment without payments. Our intent for the purchase funds is to keep purchase costs down. A motion was made by Chairman Forscher and seconded by Commissioner Shapiro to allocate the \$3,275.52 to the general fund.

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

Motion carried 5-0

- Commissioner Fierro said Keith from Mike McCormack's office sent an email yesterday inquiring about how the public relations campaign is going. Do we reach out to them about a video? Chairman Forschler suggested replying that we are formalizing plans for public outreach and how can you help us – do you have any suggestions – and you can mention the video idea. Commissioner Tompkins said the video sounds like a great idea but how do you get people to watch it. Mr. Simon said when we did public relations for LOSAP, we put it out on Facebook, Utube, on the website but he thinks the biggest bang for the buck was the open house at town hall. Ms. Tompsett said the department will be at Clinton Community Day all day and could continuously run the video. Ms. Fitzsimmons said we could have handouts with a QR code linked to the video.
- **Boiler Preventative Maintenance** - Mr. Simon will call and inquire about a preventative maintenance contract for the boiler.
- **Boy Scout Bench Project** – Chairman Forschler said last month we discussed the project the Boy Scouts would like to do in Ed Olson's memory which is to put a bench up on the new property towards the back by the stream. No one objected to this. We have received the requested certificate of insurance. Chief Estes said they will clear about 20

yards back near the stream . The property line stops near the stream. Chief Estes will let the board know what their schedule is.

Support: No representative present.

New business: None

Public Comment: None

A motion was made by Commissioner DiGiacomo and seconded by Commissioner Fierro to adjourn the meeting at 8:03 p.m.

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

Motion carried 5-0

The next regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners will be held on Wednesday, July 12, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. at the firehouse.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Buechele, Secretary
East Clinton Fire District