

EAST CLINTON FIRE DISTRICT

July 13, 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 7:20 p.m.
Roderick McCleod, Attorney, arrived at 8:20 p.m.

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

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Two M&T Month-End Collateral Statements dated 6/1/2022 and 7/1/2022 – to Mr. Simon
- Brochure for EMSPro EMS & Fire Expo October 27-29, 2022, Foxwoods Resort Casino – To Mr. Simon
- Poster from Paychex – Notice of Electronic Monitoring – Chairman Forschler read the poster.
- A check for \$250 to East Clinton EMS thanking the EMS team, especially Mr. Simon and Ms. deHaan. – to Ms. Fitzsimmons
- From ShelterPoint – State Mandated NY DBL and BaseLine Insurance Premium Invoice – to Mr. Simon
- Notices/Disclosures from RBC Wealth Management – to Commissioner Shapiro
- RBC Account Statement June 1, 2022 through June 30, 2022 – Commissioners copied.
- 2016 Explorer Recall – To Chief Estes

MINUTES:

A motion was made by Commissioner Tompkins and seconded by Commissioner DiGiacomio to approve the regular meeting minutes of June 15, 2022 as presented.

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

Motion carried 5-0.

A motion was made by Commissioner Fierro and seconded by Commissioner Tompkins to approve the special meeting minutes of June 27, 2022. The board received the independent audit for the calendar year 2021 with a due date of June 30th. Chairman Forschler called a meeting on June 27th so the board could vote to accept the audit and authorized Chairman Forschler and Mr. Simon to sign the representation letter so the audit could be filed ON TIME with the state. Chairman Forschler was out on a call at the time of the meeting.

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

Motion carried 4-0-1.

FINANCIALS:

A motion was made by Commissioner Tompkins and seconded by Commissioner Fierro to pay the bills per the abstract dated June 30, 2022. Chairman Forschler said the price for delivered diesel is high at \$5.60 a gallon. The local gas station has it for that price. Chairman Forschler asked Mr. Simon to let the board know at the next meeting how many gallons we bought for on road diesel in a year so that we can shop around. We can get it at the town hall but it's far away.

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

Motion carried 5-0.

Chief Estes said he will start topping off at the Town Hall when he is coming from Northern Dutchess as then it is on the way. There are fobs on all the rigs.

A motion was made by Chairman Forschler and seconded by Commissioner Tompkins to accept the bank statement for the period ending on June 30, 2022 and in agreement with that noted on the balance sheet as put forward by Mr. Passikoff.

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

Motion carried 5-0.

Independent Audit – Chairman Forschler said this has been the first time in nine years that the audit was filed on time. He asked Mr. Passikoff to go over any issues. Mr. Passikoff said he had sent the auditors an early version of quick books and the fixed assets had not been adjusted so one complaint was the depreciation schedule and the auditors schedule did not agree with the general ledger. Secondly, the June 8th bank statement was missing an initial – Chairman Forschler said he did not initial it. Their last comment was the Board approved the emergency preparedness plan past the due date required by New York State. Mr. Simon will post the audit on the website and Ms. Buechele filed it with the Clinton Town Clerk.

Budget Workshop Dates: The board agreed on Monday, August 29th at 6:00 p.m. for the budget workshop. Ms. Buechele will post the legal notice in the paper. The board will decide if another meeting is needed after the 29th but board members may want to pencil in September 6th. Mr. Passikoff said he will have the budget for 2022, actuals as of June 30th, and historical items from 2021. He will also provide the work sheets.

Chairman Forschler asked Mr. Passikoff to come up with some idea of what the cost could be if we are serious about going ahead with a building program. Mr. Passikoff said you will have short-term borrowing during the construction phase and once construction is completed, you will convert that to permanent financing. With the construction loans, you end up paying interest once a year at the end of the first year, second year, etc. The reality is you probably won't have any payments until 2024 but you will still need approval to borrow the money which will cover the construction loans and long-term debts. The vote is for the permanent financing and the construction loans are part of the permanent financing. We have to look at what 2023 and 2024 look like in terms of budget. Chairman Forschler said we need to get busy making presentations and communicating with the public. One of the biggest impacts we had in getting the reserve funds approved was the Saturday morning session at the town hall. It was videoed and several hundred people watched it.

Mr. Passikoff left at 7:20 p.m.

FIRE POLICE: No representative present.

DEPARTMENT:

Cars 1 – Don Estes Monthly Calls: 13 Year to Date: 65

- We are over target on call volume.
- The annual hose test is July 21st at 1100 hours.
- The SCBA flow test is July 28th. The new hose will be here Monday and they will inventory and put in service.
- We received the new windshield ripper device. It is in service on 38-12.
- We will be holding additional drills on weekdays for members who work the evening shifts and can't meet the drill quota or anyone who is available.
- The drill this month is on July 19th at 1800 hours and is the annual hazmat review. We will do a classroom review and a hazmat scenario and go over radio procedure again.
- Chief Estes said a couple of days ago he stopped by Camp Rising Sun. They only have 54 kids this summer and camp ends at the end of July. Both Chief Estes and Mr. Gammone got a tour of the place.
- There is another community day meeting on Thursday (tomorrow) at 5:00 p.m. It is going well and will provide the department with a lot of good exposure.

Car 2 – Jim Bathrick – Not present.

Car 3 – Chris Gammone –

- 63 (1987 mini pumper) has been out of service for approximately a month. He brought it to Juniors for an estimate on the oil leak. Juniors has not given us an estimate as he is waiting for a part to come in. At a minimum, there is three days of labor to fix the truck at \$1,000 per day. This is before parts and parts are scarce. Turbo is part of the problem if not the whole problem. Juniors will let Mr. Gammone know when he has an estimate ready and will not do any work until he gets a go ahead from us. Chairman Forschler said at that level dollar wise and with the age of the vehicle, run it by the board before you do anything. Chief Estes said the last time we had a clutch issue on that truck, we waited a long time for it to get fixed because they couldn't find a clutch. Parts are getting more difficult to get. Mr. Gammone said part of the problem is that due to the age of the vehicle, it has no fail safe so there are no warnings of an impending problem. Chairman Forschler said the vehicle has been out of service for a month – have we missed it? Chief Estes said it is a four purpose vehicle – buffer vehicle for MVA's especially on the parkway, mini pumper for an auxiliary water source for structure fires or large events, back up extrication truck, and it carries a trash pump for pump details, i.e. flooded basements. We don't need all of these things but at some point in time, we will miss at least a couple of these functions. Chairman Forschler asked what are the options if we decide not to fix it. Chief Estes has done some research on used vehicles which are at a premium. If we don't put another penny into this truck and you wanted to get a three-quarter ton, four wheel drive vehicle with about 60,000 miles, you are looking at \$40,000. A new vehicle at state bid, probably \$60,000 and then you get into radios, lettering, etc. and it would not have all the capabilities of this truck. The mileage on this vehicle is about 14,000 and it's an '87. Commissioner DiGiacomo said if you decide not to keep it, it will be worth more repaired than unrepaired. Chairman Forschler said we could repair it and the turbo is a benefit. Commissioner Tompkins asked how likely is this problem to resurface. Chief Estes and Mr. Gammone should ask that question of Juniors. Commissioner Tompkins said with only 14,000 miles, barring any inherent weakness on the truck, he thinks it should be repaired. Commissioner Shapiro agreed and said this vehicle is better made than a new one and if it costs \$5,000 - \$6,000 to fix opposite \$60,000 for a new vehicle, he believes it's best to stay with the old. Commissioner Tompkins said Commissioner DiGiacomo makes a good point in that if the truck needs these repairs, you won't get the value if you sell without fixing it. He thinks it makes more sense and is a good risk to stay with the truck we have.
- Mr. Gammone will bring 68 to Matt's Auto Body tomorrow. There is a two-month time frame after he orders the lights but he can't order the lights until the truck is there.

EMS - Susan deHaan Monthly Calls: 29 Year To Date: 90

- We made every single call and transported when needed.

- Ms. deHaan gets a text from West Clinton about once a week that they are off shift.
- We had two days of five calls each day.
- We had a Pine Plains call yesterday. Commissioner Shapiro asked what happens when we are in Pine Plains and someone here has a heart attack. Chief Estes said this is from county dispatch. Chairman Forschler said we can call county and say we're not going to Pine Plains. Commissioner Shapiro said the issue is how do you explain to residents why their ambulance is in Pine Plains if someone dies. This is the second time East Clinton was dispatched to Pine Plains. Chief Estes said twice in a year does not make a pattern. If it starts occurring more and more, we can then say we have a problem. Commissioner Tompkins said it is a mutual aid agreement.

Boiler PM – Mr. Simon said the preventative maintenance is scheduled for the boiler on July 28th.

Reimbursement Check – We received the reimbursement check from the insurance for the lettering in the amount of \$1,400 and put it in the savings account.

Membership –

- Sheree Murphy – Passed the background check and the physical.
A motion was made by Chairman Forschler and seconded by Commissioner Tompkins that the board accept her application for membership.

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

Motion carried 5-0. Ms. Murphy is a local resident who has her EMT card.

- Austin Burns – Mr. Burns is an applicant who lives on Creek Road in Pleasant Valley which is within the district bounds to safely respond. He passed his background check. He now needs his physical.

The State of America's Fire Stations Article – This is an article from the Our Town's publication that Commissioner Tompkins suggested be distributed to the commissioners.

A motion was made by Chairman Forschler and seconded by Commissioner Tompkins to post this article or a link to this article on the website.

Commissioner Tompkins	Aye	Commissioner DiGiacomio – Absent for this vote	
Commissioner Fierro	Aye	Chairman Forschler	Aye
Commissioner Shapiro	Aye		

Motion carried 4-0.

ISO update – Chairman Forschler said we are waiting to hear back on the ISO process. The goal is to get the rating down to an 8B – what that would save the taxpayers on insurance rates would pay for the fire house and would be a good selling point. It would be a savings of about \$200 a year on insurance and impacts all residents. One of the biggest contributors to hopefully bringing our rating down is our first two vehicles off the floor can supply 4,000 gallons a minute.

Department – Ms. Fitzsimmons had nothing from the department.

Video concept – Ms. Fitzsimmons communicated with the video people and shared with them the idea of building for the future and making a combined station improvement and recruitment video. They emailed a proposal just for a new firehouse that was quoted at \$6,000. A combined station improvement/recruitment video was quoted at \$7,000 and would incorporate up to six interviews. The company and district can develop questions the individuals can answer and the questions can blend the firehouse and membership. Incorporated into the price would be a 4 to 5 minute single video with building for the future, a 30 to 60 second video for social media, a 15 second hype add, and 3 to 5 looping silent videos. Ten or more still images can be exported from the video footage which could be used for other promotions. There are ala carte items that can be added. A third quote was for one complete package for station improvement and a second complete package for recruitment at \$10,000.

Chairman Forschler said we have \$5,000 in our budget. This information was not available for the company meeting but at the last meeting, the company was interested but wanted to see the breakdown. Ms. Fitzsimmons sent the links to all the commissioners of sample videos. Commissioner Fierro and Chairman Forscher both thought the videos were okay. Chairman Forschler wonder about the public perception of spending \$5,000 on a video. At the end of the day, as a company and district, we need to do the hard work in terms of recruitment. We need to get more proactive. For a new facility, we need to get a mailer out and get people at a public forum with facts and figures. We would need Keith's help from McCormack's office. Chairman Forschler thought Supervisor Whitton would put a video on the town's TV channel. A mailer would probably cost about \$2,000. Ms. Fitzsimmons thinks the overall theme of the video would be positive and could generate excitement with the changes it could bring. The video would be one part of this initiative.

EMS Cost Recovery/Ambulance Billing – A document was emailed to the commissioners that was prepared by FASNY entitled "EMS Cost Recovery/Ambulance Billing FAQs July 2022". Chairman Forschler asked if we don't opt to bill, this document seems to say we are still on the hook for ALS intercept charges if we are located in a rural area. Mr. MacLeod said if you are not charging residents now, you continue to operate as you are now. Currently, if Clinton requests an ALS intercept, the patient pays them directly, i.e. if Clinton does not have an agreement with NDP and they come, NDP will charge the patient. As a result of a conversation Ms. deHaan had

with Tivoli, she went directly to Ed Murray, owner of NDP, with this question and Ed said if the volunteer department does not already have said contract replacing the volunteers, if we are not billing, we do not need a contract with them. We do not have any negotiated rates. Chairman Forschler said this article is saying the district pays the ALS intercept charges. Mr. MacLeod said the bottom line is NDP could not come because there are no negotiated rates because there is no contract. He suggested an agreement that states the district is not paying anything for ALS service so if you enter into a contract with them, your negotiated rate is zero. Chairman Forschler said this law is being instituted because there are agencies making a lot of money which is a discouragement to volunteer squads. It looks like if you don't bill, you are still on the hook for an intercept charge. Mr. MacLeod said his opinion is the district is not on the hook because you do not have a negotiated rate. The law was created to encourage districts to provide an ALS service to bill. You provide a BLS and call 911 or NDP or Mobile Life and say you need an intercept. Commissioner Tompkins said when they show up, they bill heavily. Ms. deHaan said if the medic rides in our unit, it is a lesser charge to the patient than actually transporting the patient.

Chairman Forschler said it sounds like this communication is of no concern to us. Mr. MacLeod said that is correct because you don't contract for an ALS service. Ms. deHaan said this law was put in place to help the counties north of us to recover fees where it is an hour transport to a hospital. Commissioner Shapiro said Dutchess County is not considered a rural county by the state. Mr. MacLeod said this communication states that this law is in effect for four years starting July 8, 2022 so in four years, it will either go away or it may all change.

Support: No representative present.

New business: None

Public Comment:

- When asked about when the referendum can go to vote, Mr. MacLeod said the referendum can go up any time but the vote needs to be on a Tuesday. There is no petition needed.
- Eliot Werner said the district can rent a table for Clinton's community day. Chief Estes said we are on the committee and have been at every meeting. Chairman Forscher said there will be activities taking place on the old railroad bed. Any vendor will need to present an insurance document naming the district as co-insured if they will be selling or doing anything on the district property. This is also applicable to volunteer groups. Chief Estes said the next community day meeting is at 5:00 p.m. tomorrow evening at the Fran Mark Park.

A motion was made by Commissioner DiGiacomo and seconded by Chairman Forschler to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m.

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

Motion carried 5-0.

The next regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners will be held on Wednesday, August 10, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. at the firehouse.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Buechele, Secretary
East Clinton Fire District