

EAST CLINTON FIRE DISTRICT

August 10, 2022

COMMISSIONERS MEETING – FINAL

Regular Meeting 7:00

COMMISSIONERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Stephen Forschler, Chairman
Michael DiGiacomo - arrived 7:07 p.m.
Kevin Fierro
Howard Shapiro
Russell Tompkins

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Robert Simon, Treasurer
James Passikoff, Accountant, left at 7:45 p.m.
Roderick McCleod, Attorney, arrived at 8:00 p.m.

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

CORRESPONDENCE:

- M&T Month-End Collateral Statement dated 8/1/2022 – to Mr. Simon
- From Verizon dated July 29, 2022 - \$32.40 owed to the district – Mr. Simon
A motion was made by Chairman Forschler and seconded by Commissioner Fierro to authorize Mr. Simon to research, check the appropriate box and sign on behalf of the district to get the \$32.40 that is owed to the district.

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

 Motion carried 4-0.
- Several prospectuses from RBC – to Commissioner Shapiro.
- Hudson Valley Community Power document dated August 1, 2022 re: Notices Regarding Participation in Electricity Program – To Mr. Simon. Commissioner Tompkins said the town is going back to Central Hudson. H.V. Community Power could not keep up with the demand.
- From the Department of Labor – The district underpaid so there is an amount due of \$61.87. Mr. Simon will verify this with Paychex.
A motion was made by Chairman Forschler and seconded by Commissioner Tompkins to authorize Mr. Simon to pay this amount if it is a legitimate amount.

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

 Motion carried 4-0.
- From Fire Districts of NY – Symptoms of Dehydration

- Notice from Clinton Planning Board – Special Permit Application for Gorelik, 423 Clinton Hollow Road – Secretary emailed to Chairman Forschler and Chief Estes. Chief Estes looked at it and said it’s an improvement on the barn.
- From North East Ford - Service Coupons – No interest
- From RBC dated July 12, 2022 – Quarterly Performance Report – Commissioners copied.
- From RBC – Account Statement from July 1, 2022 through July 31, 2022 – Commissioners copied.
- From Lauren Bailey Lands dated July 21, 2022 – Purchasing property – no interest
- Lexus Nexus – unclaimed funds – Mr. Simon researched and there is an amount owed to the district.

A motion was made by Chairman Forschler and seconded by Commissioner Fierro to authorize Mr. Simon to sign on behalf of the district and place the claims.

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

Motion carried 4-0.

MINUTES:

A motion was made by Commissioner Tompkins and seconded by Commissioner Shapiro to approve the regular meeting minutes of July 13, 2022 as presented.

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

Motion carried 5-0.

FINANCIALS:

A motion was made by Commissioner Fierro and seconded by Commissioner Tompkins to pay the bills per the abstract dated July 31, 2022. Commissioner Tompkins said we had one voucher that had two sales taxes that should not have been on it. We need a standard exemption form that people can present. Mr. Simon said websites do not allow for tax exemption. If it’s a big item, we go through tax exemption.

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

Motion carried 5-0.

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

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

Motion carried 5-0.

Chairman Forschler commented that we have not yet received the Central Hudson or Optimum bills, but a motion is made at the re-organizational meeting to approve the treasurer to pay regular and recurring bills.

Budget workshop is August 29th at 6:00 p.m. at the firehouse. The public is welcome to observe. There will be no motions made or approvals granted. Mr. Passikoff will bring a thumb drive to the meeting so they can put excel up on the screen.

Mike McCormack and Keith Scofield from Liscum, McCormack and VanVoorhis were present to discuss next steps in the planning for a potential new firehouse if the board considers a putting up a referendum in the first half of 2023. Mr. Passikoff will bring some rates to the budget meeting on August 29th. Mr. McCormack said we need to talk with some contractors with the plans and get some preliminary numbers now. Currently, in the building world, the cost for materials and labor are all over the place but it is looking like things will start to come back more in line. We would get these preliminary numbers based on the plans that Mr. Scofield has drawn up. Chairman Forschler said that's a great starting place but we may need to make modifications once we see the numbers. Mr. Scofield said we would do a wish list and go through it with the contractor and get every line item broken down into square foot cost. Once we get the number, if it's palatable, it's time to talk to the public. Chairman Forschler agreed this is a good starting place. For the public, Mr. McCormack said we will make a power point presentation explaining what the issues are and why the current structure has outlived its useful life. This building is not safe and has true issues which include lack of handicapped accessibility, the septic system, the bays are not adequate to house modern equipment and apparatus, etc. Commissioner Shapiro said when you say the building is obsolete, the first question from the public will be was an engineering survey done which shows the cost of rehabilitating the current structure. Mr. Scofield said we did a full survey with three scenarios in mind – rehabilitating the current building, building a new building, and building a smaller new building while utilizing the old building. The numbers to rehabilitate were high and you would be throwing good money into an old structure and not getting the full benefit. Commissioner Tompkins asked how the district gets the information out to as many people as possible. We have considered a video presentation. Commissioner Tompkins thinks every household should get a mailer. Mr. McCormack said we have done public hearings and yes, you can do a mailer, but it can only do so much. The mailer should advise the public about the public hearings. October is fire prevention month – that's a good place to start. Mr. McCormack said before you go to the public for a new firehouse, the question of what to build and how much to spend needs to be answered. Commissioner Tompkins said he thought we were modeling this building after the floor plan of the building we saw in Connecticut which was well laid out. Mr. Scofield said we produced a version of that which is more in line to the East Clinton Fire District. That's what we would use as a basis to give to the contractor plus a wish list of mechanical systems to build up a square footage number and we can do a rendering with front elevations. We need more information than a floor plan to take to the public. Commissioner Shapiro said we should know what kind of carbon footprint the building will

have, and he asked about incorporating solar energy. He said we should try to market to every facet of the community and have a schematic of the building with the exact square footage of every room.

Chairman Forschler said the most effective means of communicating to the public when we had the referendum for the reserve funds was handing out flyers at the dump and getting a core segment of people at a Saturday morning public hearing at the Town Hall to discuss what the referendum was about. It ended up educating many people.

Chairman Forschler said the district has been working hard on reducing the total cost of fire protection in the district and one way to accomplish that is getting the ISO rating down a notch which will save residents on insurance. That savings will probably pay for the building. We are also looking at addressing the corner of the Town of Washington which we used to cover by contract with the Town of Washington. Acquiring those properties will increase our base which will decrease the tax base.

The reality of this building is even if it was in pristine condition, it would still be obsolete with respect to the bays, handicap accessibility, etc. Any new vehicle that is purchased must be specific to fit that smaller opening. One key reason we can work to get the ISO rating down is that we can provide the minimum 4,000 gallons of water to a scene with the first two responding apparatus. We can do it, but we need to maintain and house these vehicles. Mr. Scofield said you will pay more for special order vehicles to fit the smaller opening. Chairman Forschler agreed and said we had to modify our newest vehicle to fit. We should plan a mailing to all residents to arrive two weeks before the public hearing containing enough information to make them curious but not draw a wrong conclusion. We will be looking to Mike and Keith for help with that. Commissioner DiGiacomio said the basic question is going to be what are you going to build and how much will it cost me.

Mr. McCormack said we will use the floor plan as a base and Mr. Scofield will get some elevations together. We will go with the pre-engineered concept, put together a performance specification of elements which will help a contractor produce a number along with elevations, floor cuts, and renderings. Mr. McCormack will outline what the cost of this work will be and provide it to Chairman Forschler. Commissioner Tompkins commented that the project will also involve the costs for road work, site work, etc.

Mr. Scofield will plan to attend the November meeting.

FIRE POLICE: No representative present.

DEPARTMENT:

Cars 1 – Don Estes 6 Monthly Calls: Year to Date: 71

- We had the annual SCBA flow test. Three tanks went for hydro testing.
- All the hose testing is done. One length of 50 failed.

- Gordon will be here on Friday to test fire extinguishers on the rigs, in the building, and on the vehicles.
- NYCOMCO is coming Friday to install the new West Clinton frequency in the radios which will be a very handy tool.
- The drill is on August 16 and will be water operations, pump operations, and re-training on all pumping apparatus.
- We have asked the state police to do an active shooter class for our general membership.
- We did a drive from Nine Partners to Maple Lane along the power lines. They are obligated to bring the area back to original shape and form once the work is done.
- The fire chiefs have budget items in line.
- Chief Estes has a quote from Reardon Briggs to replace the trash pump that is out of commission in the amount of \$559.

A motion was made by Chairman Forschler and seconded by Commissioner Fierro to approve \$559 to Reardon Briggs to replace the trash pump that is out of commission.

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

Motion carried 5-0.

Car 2 – Jim Bathrick – Not present.

Car 3 – Chris Gammone –

- The parts are in at Matts Auto Body for the lens for 68. Do you want to get the dent out first or replace the lights first. He can get a quote on the dent when they put the lights in. Commissioner Tompkins said he will look at the dent. He thinks we can pop it out so it's pretty close to before. Mr. Gammone will pick up the lenses tomorrow and Commissioner Tompkins will pop the dent out and replace the broken lens.
- 63 is back in the bay. The prognosis from Juniors is the oil leak is marginal but will always leak. We will check the oil every week and refill as necessary and we have put pads underneath to prevent a spill. Juniors said it will run until it dies. Once it dies or another issue of major value occurs, it won't be worth fixing anymore. The vehicle could last indefinitely or a day. There are problems finding parts because it's so old. This oil problem will not affect how it runs provided we keep an eye on it. Chairman Forschler said add it to the quick call list and when it dies, it dies. Commissioner Tompkins said you can add an additive to the oil which slows down the oil leak drastically.

EMS - Susan deHaan Monthly Calls: 15 Year To Date: 106

- We had three MVAs, one MA to Pine Plains and one MA to Pleasant Valley.
- 100% response.

- No West Clinton calls but we were on call every weekend.
- As a follow up to the ALS law, if there is no NDP contract, there are no fees. She was invited by Ed Murray to a meeting Monday night with Battalion 2 which includes Rhinebeck, Red Hook and Tivoli to discuss what this law means to fire companies and districts. She will report back. The inference is if there is no contract but they provide ALS assistance to us, they are not getting paid. Mr. MacLeod said they should be billing the patient. Chairman Forschler said the issue is Medicaid would pay for an ambulance transport but not all in on paying for a meet and assist. That's why we were letting ALS transport on ALS calls - because its better for the residents. Chief Estes said we are at 100% response and 100% transport. We are not going to not transport Medicaid patients. If ALS transports, the bill is covered by insurance. A meet and assist is not likely to be covered by insurance. Chief Estes pointed out that you cannot wait on the scene by protocol. If you have an ALS patient, you load and go. Our ALS unit comes from Rhinebeck. If its ALS, we are going to Poughkeepsie. A good 40% of the time, there is no ALS unit available. They are making broad stroke comments, but they have failed. Mr. MacLeod said if there is no contract, their ambulance should be billing the patient. Most of the northern districts don't have dedicated contracts either. It is much cheaper for the town residents if the town contracts with the ambulance providers because the provider can bill residents for cost of service if there is a contract with the town. If the fire department contracts with a provider, the fire department is prohibited by law to bill the patient. In the southern district, the towns have contracts with the ambulance service. Chairman Forschler asked if we could run a volunteer ambulance service and have the town contract with an ALS service to provide for East and West Clinton. Mr. MacLeod said that is a feasible approach. You don't charge for ambulance. The town could contract with ALS just for meet and assist or going to P1 and P2 only. Chairman Forschler said at some point then, it is possible the East and West Clinton commissioners and attorneys could meet with the town. The worst thing for the district is to be on the hook for the ALS charges. The people who lose are the patients. Ms. deHaan said the commercial agencies are experiencing staff shortages. They may not be able to provide a contract. Stanford can't get an ALS contract. Commissioner Tompkins asked who makes the decision of what action to take. Ms. deHaan said the captain. If you know ALS will take forever to get to the scene, you pack and go to the hospital. Chief Estes said if ALS is coming out of the south, we do an intercept, stabilize, and rock. Mr. MacLeod said lets wait to hear what Ed Murray has to say.
- Active shooter drill – The EMS squad is going to Millbrook on August 17th from 6:30 to 9 p.m. for an active shooter drill put on by Nuvance. We had to take a pretest first. This is hands on training.
- We've been asked to participate with the town's rec and park committee to do CPR training and maybe stop the bleed training. Right now it's just a thought. It would be in

district and there will be no cost involved. Ms. deHaan and Mr. Simon will donate their time and there will be no certifications or cards involved.

- Sheree Murphy is looking at AED grants and possibly Lifepak. Mr. Simon is also working on that.

Membership –

Austin Burns – We received his application for new membership at the last meeting, he passed the background check but we have not heard back on the physical. If we don't vote, then he is automatically approved within 40 days.

A motion was made by Chairman Forschler and seconded by Commissioner DiGiacomio that the membership application of Austin Burns is rejected if the board does not have his satisfactory physical results by August 20, 2022.

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

Motion carried 5-0.

Company – Heather Fitzsimmons

- We are participating in Community Day.
- At the meeting on Monday, we discussed the video idea for recruitment/building for the future. We discussed at the last board meeting the different options presented to us by the video company. On Monday night, the company discussed doing a recruitment only video as it will last as long as we want to show it. The cost for a single video is \$6,000. If we do that, the company is interested in putting up half of the cost of that video if the district supports a joint effort for a recruitment video which will include a large promo video, a silent video, and stand-alone images. The thought is, once we have them, we will have them indefinitely. Chairman Forschler said we are looking more at recruitment as it is good in perpetuity. A video for a structure becomes obsolete. We have \$5,000 in public relations. It is highly likely we will be doing a mailing for a new facility which will probably cost at least \$1,000. We may want to do a smaller mailing as well, also in the neighborhood of \$1,000. That will leave \$3,000 in the budget. We need members. The video can go on Facebook, the town and district websites, YouTube, local schools, and possible the town tv channel. You could put a QR code on the mailers to link it to the video as well. Chairman Forschler asked Ms. Fitzsimmons to get some feedback from the company that did the video and re-visit in September. He is in favor of splitting the cost.

Diesel pricing – Mr. Simon will look into it.

Condolences - Phillippa Weiland passed away. Arthur Weiland is a former commissioner. The secretary will send a condolence card on behalf of the commissioners.

Ambulance - There was a minor issue with the ambulance. Chief Estes was backing into a driveway and creased the resident's vehicle. Chairman Forschler made a report to the insurance company. The resident will get the car down to Matt's.

The ambulance does not have a backup camera. Mr. Gammone will find out how much it would cost to install a backup camera on the ambulance.

Annexation process – We no longer cover the properties we used to cover under contract with the Town of Washington. It makes sense that the district cover these properties. Chairman Forschler asked Mr. MacLeod to review the protocol for the annexation process. Mr. MacLeod said the Town of Washington must consent to the addition of property we are taking. Most of the work is done by the Town of Washington protection district or the residents that live in the annexation area. The residents have to ask to be freed from the protection district. Option 1 is the Town of Washington must agree to pass a resolution releasing this number of properties from the protection district. They can do that on their own motion. They would need to notice a public hearing, hold the public hearing, then vote to release the properties. Whether the town passes or does not pass a resolution, they must ratify their decision by a permissive referendum. Option 2 is for the residents to petition the town, then the town must hold a public hearing and must hold a vote. The town could say no. If the petition is done by residents, no permissive referendum is required. Mr. MacLeod said it makes more sense for the residents to sign a petition. It would be hard for the town board to ignore a petition signed by every resident in the annexation area and not let them go. He did not advise the Board of Fire Commissioners to send a letter to the town board. The Clinton town board has nothing to do with this. If this were to go through, the Town of Washington will lose fire taxes from the annexed properties. The East Clinton district must consent to taking these properties. That can be the last step in the process although, strategically, you may want to pass a motion now that the district consents to taking the properties if the Town of Washington gives them up.

Support: No representative present.

New business:

- Commissioner Tompkins asked if it would be beneficial to have all the drivers take defensive driving which would lower the insurance cost. Chairman Forschler said we do not get a discount with defensive driving training. All drivers are certified every year on the vehicles.
- Commissioner Fierro said Kevin and Mike will try to have something by community day.

- Chairman Forschler received the certificate of liability insurance from the boy scout group who is doing the bench project in memory of Ed Olson. The certificate was handed to the secretary for filing.

Public Comment:

- Eliot Werner, Town Board liaison, said all the towns that were part of the deal with Hudson Valley Community Power have a lawsuit against them. It's a big mess and the PSC is involved. The deal was that the rates would be fixed for a period of time because Central Hudson's rates fluctuate. Central Hudson rates are lower today.
- Ms. deHaan had the district maps laminated for use on community day.

A motion was made by Commissioner DiGiacomio and seconded by Chairman Forschler to adjourn the meeting at 8:48 p.m.

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

Motion carried 5-0.

The next regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners will be held on Wednesday, September 14, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. at the firehouse.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Buechele, Secretary
East Clinton Fire District