

EAST CLINTON FIRE DISTRICT

September 14, 2022

COMMISSIONERS MEETING – DRAFT

Regular Meeting 7:00

COMMISSIONERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Stephen Forschler, Chairman
Michael DiGiacomo
Kevin Fierro
Howard Shapiro

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

Russell Tomkins

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Robert Simon, Treasurer
James Passikoff, Accountant, left at 7:15 p.m.
Roderick McCleod, Attorney, was absent.

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 9/1/2022 – to Mr. Simon.
- RBC Statement for August, 2022 – Commissioners copied.
- Certificate of Liability Insurance for Dutchess Community College naming East Clinton Rescue Squad as additional insured – to Secretary
- Marshall and Sterling hosting two cancer insurance meetings October 5 and 6, 2022
- Open House October 15th sponsored by Premier Fire Apparatus Inc.
- From RBC dated August 24, 2022 – Important Information about Advisory Accounts - to Mr. Simon.

MINUTES:

A motion was made by Commissioner Shapiro and seconded by Commissioner Fierro to approve the regular meeting minutes of August 14, 2022 as presented.

Commissioner Fierro	Aye	Commissioner DiGiacomo	Aye
Commissioner Shapiro	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 August 31, 2022. Chairman Forschler informed Chief Estes that it is the job of the company president to authorize the vouchers for company uniforms and Class A uniforms.

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

Motion carried 4-0.

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

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

Motion carried 4-0.

Facilities Committee Update – Commissioner Fierro did not hear back from Mr. McCormack. Commissioner Shapiro handed Chairman Forschler a document from the Millbrook CSD demonstrating the background in producing a timeline for the public and the next steps in preparing the reasons for a new firehouse, the progression through public hearing, the vote, and assuming a positive vote, the next steps. Chairman Forschler will review it.

FIRE POLICE: No representative present.

DEPARTMENT:

Cars 1 – Don Estes Monthly Calls: 13 Year to Date: 81

- Members have been reminded to run all vehicles weekly on the road.
- Members have been reminded to check the LOSAP sheet which is posted monthly and to check the drill and module sheets so there are no year-end surprises.
- This Tuesday, September 20th, will be our first day time drill which we started for members that are having difficulty making the evening drills.
- Physicals have been scheduled for the month of October. Members have been reminded to sign up.
- The new West Clinton 71 frequency has been installed on most of the radios. We used it on Community Day. It's a great tool and was money well invested.
- 63 is in service and has been running well. We have to continue to check the oil on a routine basis. However, there is no sense putting money into it as we can't get parts. When it dies, it dies.
- Stanford has been collecting surplus equipment to send to Ukraine. We have six SCBA's that are past their useful life in terms of current standards required. We would like to donate them to Stanford for their surplus equipment drive.

A motion was made by Chairman Forschler and seconded by Commissioner DiGiacomo to declare the six Scott Packs that are past their useful life in terms of current standards as surplus equipment with the intent of donating them to Stanford and being forwarded on to Ukraine. The commissioners agreed it was a great idea.

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

Motion carried 4-0.

- Camera for 71 – A rear back up camera system is \$495, installation is \$400 and shipping is \$20 for a total of \$915. Chairman Forschler said the camera will come in very handy. The engine and tanker have one. The ambulance logs the most miles.

A motion was made by Chairman Forschler and seconded by Commissioner Shapiro to authorize \$915 for the purpose of the installation of a backup camera on the ambulance. Paul Herman, an emergency service vehicle specialist, will install it. It's been ordered.

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

Motion carried 4-0.

Car 2 – Jim Bathrick – Not present.

Car 3 – Chris Gammone – Not present.

Preliminary Budget – Chairman Forschler said when preparing the preliminary budget, we looked at an earlier document from Penflex to get our number for LOSAP which was \$43,785. Mr. Simon received a document from Penflex dated August 29th which had an updated amount of \$38,717 which is \$5,068 less. The question now is should we modify the preliminary budget and increase a reserve fund by the difference or just file the budget as is and pay less. Mr. Passikoff said this is the time to change reserve funds. After this, they can't be changed. The commissioners agreed to put the difference of \$5,068 into the equipment purchase reserve fund which will have a balance of \$157,068 after the addition. Mr. Passikoff will make those two changes, increasing the equipment purchase reserve fund by \$5,068 and decreasing LOSAP by the same amount to \$38,717 and then send the updated preliminary budget to the secretary.

A motion was made by Chairman Forschler and seconded by Commissioner DiGiacomio to approve the proposed budget for the 2023 fiscal year in the amount of \$539,635 of which \$539,485 is to be raised by real estate taxes. The proposed budget is \$387 less and .07 percent less than the 2022 fiscal year budget. Chairman Forschler said this is the fourth year the budget either stayed the same or decreased. When he started on the board, the equipment purchase fund was about \$80,000, we were overpaying on salaries, LOSAP was nowhere near the funding level it should have been, and we had just had a scathing audit from the Comptroller's Office. Currently, a third of the budget is going to reserve funds to buy vehicles for cash instead of paying interest, LOSAP is fully funded, and we are in great fiscal shape with big goals in mind. The progress we have made has been tremendous.

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

Motion carried 4-0.

EMS - Susan deHaan Monthly Calls: 15 Year To Date: 121

- Not many mutual aid calls. We responded to all 15 calls and transported.
- We were contacted today that we will be having a state inspection within the week. The first thing they will look at are the preventative maintenance records which we have.
- The ambulance is probably going to need a front end alignment. Ms. deHaan spoke to Chris Gammone about this. She wondered if we will need tires at the same time. Chief Estes will communicate to Chris that an estimate is needed for the front end alignment and tires.
- Sheree Murphy contacted the Stryker rep about a proposal for a grant to replace the outdated defibrillators but Ms. deHaan did not like the proposal. Five units need replacing. Chairman Forschler said the purchase policy says that if you can purchase at the state bid price, we don't need a competitive bid. If not, we do. The defib in the support vehicle is not functioning. We do not have another unit to put in that truck and we should have one on that vehicle. We should get a state bid on a defib so the support vehicle is well equipped and then we can buy four out of next year's budget. No one objected that to that approach.

A motion was made by Chairman Forscher and seconded by Commissioner Fierro to authorize Ms. deHaan, if she can find one at state bid, to spend up to \$1,750 to replace the defibrillator on the support vehicle. Commissioner Shapiro reiterated at state bid.

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

Motion carried 4-0.

Company – Heather Fitzsimmons

- We received a letter from Patricia VanLeuven who is on leave of absence from the Fire Police to change her membership status to social member.

Support: No representative present.

Insurance Claim – Chairman Forschler said the quote came in to fix the ambulance after the back-up incident at \$5,000 so he put an insurance claim in. The deductible is \$1,000. We were hoping to self-insure but he made a judgement call based on the quote.

Physicals – will be at the firehouse the night of October 4. Active members are required to get a physical on or about October every year. They have the option of getting it here or at the TEK facility. This year TEK will be adding the fitness evaluation to the requirements.

ISO – Chairman Forschler said we have received notification from ISO that our classification has dropped to an 8. We were at a 10 which is roughly the equivalent to having no Fire Department. 8B is probably the best we can expect for a community of this size. A large factor in this rating has to do with being able to provide the appropriate volume of water at first

response at an incidence and response percentage, drills, etc. This is the rating most insurance companies use to set the cost for house and fire insurance for properties. Former Commissioner Trzcinski said his home insurance is due up the first of October so we will see how he will benefit from this drop in the rating. Chairman Forschler suggested posting this letter on the website and letting people know this is a function of the improvements we have made in responses. As a matter of fact, on a percentage basis, we are probably one of the top responding all-volunteer districts in the county. 8B is our rating for the service we provide. ISO is accepting West Clinton as a recognized fire department. Commissioner DiGiacomio said he would not publish the letter as it may be too confusing. He suggested paraphrasing it. Commissioner Shapiro agreed and suggested paraphrasing the letter with explanations about what this means and why. Chairman Forschler said he will try to put something together before the next meeting.

Annexation of property – Chairman Forschler will follow up with Mr. MacLeod. Chief Estes said we were first on scene for an AFA at the church last week. Millbrook showed up 15 minutes later.

New business: None

Public Comment:

Eliot Werner asked if there was any discussion regarding the facilities update. Chairman Forschler said no one from McCormack’s office came to the meeting. Commissioner Fierro will be following up with them.

A motion was made by Commissioner DiGiacomio and seconded by Chairman Forschler to adjourn the meeting at 7:43 p.m.

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

Motion carried 4-0.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Buechele, Secretary
East Clinton Fire District