

EAST CLINTON FIRE DISTRICT

October 12, 2022

COMMISSIONERS MEETING – DRAFT

Regular Meeting 7:00

COMMISSIONERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Stephen Forschler, Chairman
Michael DiGiacomo
Kevin Fierro
Howard Shapiro
Russell Tompkins

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Robert Simon, Treasurer
James Passikoff, Accountant, left at 7:10 p.m.
Roderick McCleod, Attorney, arrived at 8:10.

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

CORRESPONDENCE:

- M&T Month-End Collateral Statement dated 9/1/2022 – to Mr. Simon.
- RBC Statement for September, 2022 – Commissioners copied.
- RBC Notices – to Commissioner Shapiro
- Check from Jean McAvoy to the Clinton Volunteer Fire Department - \$30 to Ms. Thompsett
- Winter Coat Drive – Clinton Town Clerk – Posted in the bays
- From MES Lawmen – Scott Air Packs due for flow testing – Chief Estes said the testing was done in the spring of this year.
- North East Ford – Service Reminder
- From Marshall & Sterling – Rate decrease – Chairman Forschler read the notice.
- ShelterPoint dated September 12, 2022 – Accidental Death and Dismemberment Benefits Rider - Chairman Forschler will post.

MINUTES:

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

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

Motion carried 5-0.

FINANCIALS:

A motion was made by Commissioner DiGiacomio and seconded by Commissioner Shapiro to pay the bills per the abstract dated September 30, 2022 with the exception of check number 3621 which is a charge back from the county for claims and corrections people had to their property taxes. The county will add it to our property tax bill in the next tax cycle.

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

Motion carried 5-0.

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

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

Motion carried 5-0.

Chairman Forschler reminded everyone that the public hearing for the budget is Tuesday, October 18, 2022 from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the end of which we will approve the final budget to be submitted to the town.

FIRE POLICE: No representative present.

DEPARTMENT:

Cars 1 – Don Estes Monthly Calls: 9 Year to Date: 90

- We can apply for the forestry grant and are considering either a drone or some hand held thermal imaging cameras (TICs) like the chief officers have. Mr. Simon will get some prices on drones and we talked to MES for a recommendation for TICs. The drone would be useful in several situations. Other companies use drones. If we choose to apply, we should get the grant because we didn't get it last year. All of our forestry equipment is in excellent shape. Under this grant, we get an item up to \$3000 and get reimbursed up to 50%. The district needs to spend half the money, up to \$1,500. The application is due in a couple of weeks. With the drone, you will get an overview of the fire, its direction, wind speed, where it's advancing and where it's not, as well as other safety applications. The grant has to be for a forestry application. The TICs are \$300. Chief Estes said both items make sense and both would come in handy. Urban areas need a license to operate a drone but probably not here. Commissioner Shapiro said he doesn't think a drone is at this point, without further study, something we should be looking at. If we had a large forest fire, we could get the forest rangers to send

- The company has requested that, due to prices going up with inflation, would the district be conducive to extending more money for the annual dinner. Chairman Forschler said no, \$8,000 was allocated in the budget and the commissioners agreed.
- Ms. Thompson has requested to use the meeting room on December 10th for an outside function.

A motion was made by Chairman Forschler and seconded by Commissioner Shapiro to approve the use of the facility's meeting room by Ms. Thompson on December 10 for personal purposes.

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

Motion carried 5-0

- Ms. Thompson submitted the resignation letter from Zacharias Shapiro dated October 10, 2022 due to his change of address.

Facilities Update – Mr. Scofield from Liscum, McCormack and VanVoorhis presented a facilities update. Mark Day Engineering said we probably won't be able to use the septic no matter what the building layout is as the spot it is in now is impeded. The Board of Health may let us re-use the tank if we dig it up and move it. Mark Day advised that a well being used for a public facility has to be 200 feet from a septic system and the district will have to know where the wells are of all properties within 300 feet of the property in order to determine the placement of the septic. The road will have to have a 90 degree swoop to it. There is a tiny piece of property between the culvert pipe that follows the creek bed through the property and where the property line is which is owned by the cemetery. He suggested that, since the cemetery is probably not using that property, the district may want to consider doing a lot line adjustment for that piece of property. It would be useful in helping bring the intersection up to Department of Transportation standards which will probably cost around \$30,000. They may not have to move the pole but the guardrails may have to be adjusted. The DOT will determine that. Mr. Scofield said the septic tank is large so it may be useful to pump and save since you will be digging it up anyway. The depth and yield of the well will have to be tested. Mr. Scofield said as far as occupancy of the meeting room, you can go up to 99 people before triggering the requirement for a sprinkler system so the district needs to decide whether to cap the meeting room at 99. A sprinkler system would be about a half million dollars. You can reduce the size of the actual room or reduce the size in other ways such as a dividing partition. The apparatus bays may require a sprinkler. Chairman Forschler said for a budget of 4 to 5 million dollars, a sprinkler system would eat into that and impact taxes. Mr. Scofield said he will do more research on other locations that have set a cap at 99 rather than reducing size. Size is still beneficial even if you don't pack it. You would have to post 99 person capacity max. Mr. Scofield is hoping that at the end of the month or before next meeting, he has a good hard number based on estimates. We are looking at a pre-engineered building with metal siding with a masonry base at three or four feet high which does not have to wrap around the whole

building but would dress up the front. It would be similar to Falls Village. In that building, the apparatus bay has a masonry wall that divides it from business portion of fire station. We will have same thing. They call the apparatus bay storage with the required barrier between the two sections. In Falls Village, the business portion of the building was about five feet lower than the bays. For the future, if there was a bunk room, Mr. Scofield projected that to be off the backside of the bay which would include a gear room and showers. The original layout was 11,665 square feet. If we add that additional space, it would bring up to 14,112 square feet. It might make sense to just build that shell even if you don't do anything with it now. It will take 2 to 3 months to do detailed construction drawings. Chairman Forschler said at some point, we will need an estimate.

Water system – Chairman Forschler said we had a new pump installed a few weeks ago by Juliano Plumbing which stirred up sediment and clogged the filters. The cartridges on the filters are fragile and he can't get them off. Their fins are broken. He asked Juliano to install new cartridges that are easy to maintain. In the interim, Juliano was called away and got stretched too thin. People are supposed to be here tomorrow afternoon to change cartridges and filters so we will get another bill but if we have to dig the well up, it will be pricey.

West Clinton Letter – Chairman Forschler said we had five mutual aid calls to West Clinton in September, all five to Cornerstone in two weeks time. He read the letter he would like to send to West Clinton. We will still respond to emergency calls as best as we can but not to Cornerstone.

A motion was made by Chairman Forschler and seconded by Commissioner Shapiro to authorize Chairman Forschler to sign the letter and send to the West Clinton commissioners. Mr. MacLeod said the letter is fine but it's possible and probable that 911 will still dispatch you either intentionally or forgetting the letter exists. If a call comes in, you should probably respond then call them and remind them. He said you could get on the radio and say there are no units available but the safe thing is to answer the call then remind them. If that doesn't happen, then maybe we take it to a further step. Chief Estes said West Clinton is off shift during prime time – Saturday nights. Very often they have EMT and ambulance but no driver. They could not have staffing or have staffing but are on another call. Those are two different scenarios that need to be considered. Also, many of their EMTs are working for other commercial entities.

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

Motion carried 5-0. The board directed Chief Estes to contact 911.

38-68 Lens – Thank you to Commissioner Tompkins for putting the lens in 38-68. It looks great.

Membership – We have not heard from TEK yet regarding Austin Burns’ physical.

Election Planning – The election is on Tuesday, December 13th from 4:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Valley Community Church. The election inspectors are Pat Mastri and Colleen McGarry and the election chairman is Tony Irkliewskij.

Physicals – The secretary has not received the physical results from TEK as of this date.

Petition Town of Washington (TOW) – Mr. MacLeod said there are two sections of state law – one which deals with a fire district and one with a fire protection district. Millbrook is a fire protection district which needs to diminish their fire protection boundaries and at the same time, East Clinton, a fire district, needs to extend their fire district boundaries. The TOW process is contingent on the East Clinton process, and the East Clinton process is contingent upon the TOW process. This can be done by petition or the TOW town board can make a resolution on their own. For a petition, one half of resident taxpayers of the assessed value of the proposed annexation is needed. There are about 60 properties. Take those 60 assessed values, add them all together, and you have to get half of the resident taxpayers of that amount of dollars to sign the petition – it must be resident taxpayers. If they are not residents, they don’t count. You need over half of the assessed values for the petition. To get the petition going, we need to know what parcels are the big 60. After the petition is submitted to the town, they have to hold a public hearing. After the public hearing, they make a resolution to diminish their boundaries by the big 60 or they can deny it.

A second idea is you need a petition from half of the assessed value of those that live in the big 60 and then you need a petition from half of everyone else in the fire protection district agreeing to give up the revenue of that district. If that happens, there is no town board discretion. They have to hold a public hearing and then they pass a resolution. That is the more sure path but it is very difficult to get half of residents outside the big 60. Mr. MacLeod said it has been done in the past, but it takes time and is hard work. It’s much easier if it is two fire districts as opposed to a fire district and a fire protection district. This is only the TOW side. The Town of Clinton (TOC) has a say in this. Without a petition, both towns (TOW and TOC) would have to approve a resolution accepting the expansion for the East Clinton Fire District. They have to hold a public hearing. The TOW can approach East Clinton and say we don’t want these anymore and with findings and a public hearing, they can approve it.

Chairman Forschler asked if the district can approach the TOW. Mr. MacLeod said it can’t hurt and is not inappropriate or illegal and it can give you a sense of the TOW position. If the TOW of their own volition is in favor, you don’t need the petition. This is beneficial to people living so close to the East Clinton district. Mr. MacLeod said if the TOW decides this is best for everyone after you talk to them, they hold a public hearing and pass a resolution diminishing their boundaries, it would have to be subject to permissive referendum. The very first step is to

approach the TOW people. Chief Estes agreed, go with easiest solution first. Mr. MacLeod suggested a personal point of view in a carefully crafted letter can be effective if delivered to the TOW town board. Chief Estes said we have to remember we are going on every call for them anyway. Any call we get over here, we are simultaneously dispatched. We are not going for EMS calls. The TOW residents did not realize they are now part of a paid EMS and they will get billed. Chairman Forschler will do some research and see if he can make contact. Commissioner Shapiro will reach out to fellow school board members and will find someone on the TOW town board that will listen to us.

AED Quote – We have two bids but neither say state bid. A third quote is needed. This will be revisited at the next meeting.

ISO Process Letter – A motion was made by Chairman Forschler and seconded by Commissioner Fierro to approve the content of the ISO letter, authorize Chairman Forschler to sign the ISO letter and post on the website.

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

Motion carried 5-0. This can also go on the Facebook page.

Support: No representative present.

New business: None

Ms. deHaan has found a 12 lead EKG machine which is approved for use in the field. It's portable, has several years of warranty and will give us the information we need.

A motion as made by Chairman Forschler and seconded by Commissioner Shapiro to authorize the purchase of a Biocare EKG machine with five rolls of thermal paper for \$833. This will come out of medical supplies and will take the place of the cardiac monitor.

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

Motion carried 5-0

Ms. Thompsett asked for permission to bring in ServPro to clean the kitchen, bathroom and the rug in the meeting room. It was about \$1,500 last time. Chairman Forschler said we will re-visit this next month once the sediment issue is resolved.

Public Comment:

Eliot Werner asked what the difference is between a fire district and a fire protection district. Mr. MacLeod said a fire district is its own political entity like a school district and the population elects the district. A fire protection district is an area that the town assumed protection for because there is no fire department there. Oftentimes, fire protection districts contract with other towns.

A motion was made by Commissioner DiGiacomo and seconded by Chairman Forschler to adjourn the meeting at 8:56 p.m.

Commissioner Tompkins	Aye	Commissioner DiGiacomo	Aye
Commissioner Fierro	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, November 16, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. at the firehouse.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Buechele, Secretary
East Clinton Fire District

DRAFT