

**Fort Montgomery Fire District
PO Box 71
Fort Montgomery, NY 10922**

February 21, 2023

The second regular monthly meeting of the Fort Montgomery Fire District was called to order at 7:02 pm by Andrew Lynch, Commissioner of the Board of Fire Commissioners.

Opening Ceremonies: Led by Commissioner Andrew Lynch

Public Hearing: Motion to open the Public Hearing at 7:02 pm for the Real Property Tax Exemption Law Public Hearing made by S. Armstrong, seconded by A. Camp, all in favor, motion carried

Present: Commissioners Andrew Lynch, Seth Armstrong and Anthony Camp; Debbie Jersey; Treasurer and Jennifer Hurst, Secretary (remote)

Absent: Chairman Michael Cahill, Commissioner E. Jimenez

Fire Department Attendees: Chief Ryan Falk; Assistant Fire Chief Rich Salva, Patty Steinmetz, President of Department, Lee Steinmetz, Jr.

Guests: Town of Highlands Trustee Rich Sullivan, Scott Dow, Attorney (remote)

Communications:

1. SW Johnson Fire Department – invitation to attend the 111th Rockland County Fire Department Parade September 9, 2023, Town of Haverstraw, Thiells
2. Jacobowitz and Gubits LLP – Notice of Claim regarding the Cornwall Warehouse fire; given to Attorney Dow
3. Assoc. of Fire District – Regular monthly meetings are the 14th day of the month. Next meeting is 2/28 at 7:30 pm at the New Hope fire house
4. Letter from J. Monteleone – requesting to fill the vacant spot left open by Commissioner E. Jimenez
5. Kornfeld, Newman, Rew & Simeone – Stony Point Fire District, Bear Mountain and FMFD Mutual Aid Agreement to be signed and returned for renewal – See Chief's Report
6. Kornfeld, Newman, Rew & Simeone – Real Property Tax Exemption Law documents for Public Hearing – See Commissioners Report

Minutes:

Motion to approve the January, 2023 regular monthly minutes was made by A. Camp, seconded by S. Armstrong, all in favor, motion carried.

Motion to approve the January, 2023 Re-Organizational meeting minutes was made by S. Armstrong, seconded by A. Camp, all in favor, motion carried.

Treasurer's Report:

Motion to approve the Treasurer's report made by S. Armstrong, seconded by A. Lynch, all in favor, motion carried.

Checks Received: None

Bills:

Motion to pay bills in the amount of \$71,167.05 as per attached abstract #429, Claim numbers 5973 through 5990 was made by A. Camp, seconded by S. Armstrong, all in favor, motion carried.

Chief's Report *(see attached):*

1. Motion to spend up to \$175.00 for flares made by S. Armstrong, seconded by A. Lynch, all in favor, motion carried
2. Motion to spend up to \$50.00 to replace the broken Akron 2.5 inch nozzle for Truck 422 made by A. Lynch, seconded by A. Camp, all in favor, motion carried
3. Motion to spend \$1,500.00 on awards for the upcoming Installation Dinner made by A. Lynch, seconded by S. Armstrong, all in favor, motion carried
4. Motion to approve the new Stony Point and FMFD Mutual Aid Agreement made by S. Armstrong, seconded by A. Camp, all in favor, motion carried. The new agreement will be good for three years, expiring December 31, 2025

Asst. Chief's Report: None

Public Hearing: Motion to close the Public Hearing at 8:02 made by S. Armstrong, seconded by A. Camp, all in favor, motion carried.

Commissioner's Report:

1. Motion to approve and pass the Resolution for Fire Department members from taxation and assessments levied by the Fire District up to 10% per the attached Resolution made by S. Armstrong, seconded by A. Camp, all in favor, motion carried. Secretary to provide Resolution to the Town Clerk
2. Motion to approve and pass the Resolution that The Board of Fire Commissioners certifies the attached list of active members with a minimum of two years of service is eligible for the tax exemption list above and per the attached Resolution made by A. Camp, seconded by S. Armstrong, all in favor, motion carried. Secretary to provide Resolution and list to the Town Clerk
3. Motion to approve both Don Marshall and Steve Snavely to begin receiving their LOSAP benefits made by A. Lynch, seconded by S. Armstrong, all in favor, motion carried. The secretary will sign the letters on behalf of M. Cahill and send to Hometown

Old Business:

1. Member census and life insurance updates were made and sent out. Copies given to A. Lynch

New Business: None

Public Comment on Public Hearing: Town of Highlands Trustee Rich Sullivan brought a copy of Town Law Chapter 79 in regards to Firemen time of service coverage. This was provided to him by the Town's Attorney Justin Rider. Trustee Sullivan requested that a copy of the law be provided to the District's attorney, Scott Dow. Discussion ensued. Scott said this Town Tax law was based upon the prior NYS Real Property Tax Law, Section 466. It was amended in December, 2022 and removed the \$3,000.00 cap and set forth other criteria.

Public Comment:

Patty Steinmetz came to discuss the lease. She is looking for the comments and/or issues so that she can bring to the Committee as it has been 60 days since it was provided to the District. Discussion ensued. A. Lynch will discuss with M. Cahill after the meeting.

Trustee Sullivan praised the Fire District. Congratulated the Department on their 90th year in service (December 2022). He also stated that the notification in the paper does not match what the District voted on.

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn the February 21, 2023 Monthly Meeting at 8:30 pm was made by A. Lynch, seconded by S. Armstrong, all in favor, motion carried.

Next Meeting: March 21, 2022

Submitted by: Jennifer Hurst, Secretary