



VESTAL FIRE DISTRICT BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONER REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Date: February 28, 2024

Present:

Commissioner Maria Sexton
Commissioner Sue Messina
Commissioner Stephen Donnelly - ABSENT
Commissioner Robert Greene, Jr
Commissioner Glenn Miller

Other Present:

Susan Bowen, Fire District Secretary
Paige Willes, Director of Purchasing
Charles Paffie, Assistant Fire Chief
William Stout, Assistant Fire Chief
Daniel Kirchheimer, Dept President
1 from the Public

Governance Committee:

Chairman Thomas McCartney
Member Ronald Birdsall

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 pm by Chairwoman M. Sexton.

Chairwoman M. Sexton led the Pledge to the Flag to those present.

At this time Chairwomen M. Sexton turn the meeting over to Governance Committee Chairman Thomas McCartney to run the meeting.

Correction to January 24, 2024 Meeting Minutes under the Chief’s Report second to last paragraph of his report. The sentence should read, “Vestal Fire Department will be receiving **sixty (60) 5-gallon** pails of universal green foam Broome County office of Emergency Services.”

Motion to Approve the Fire District Meeting of January 24, 2024 as corrected by Commissioner Messina, seconded by Commissioner Greene Jr. Ayes Sexton, Messina, Green Jr. Miller. Opposed None, Absent Donnelly. Carried.

Correspondence:

- Fire Advisory Board Meeting Minutes for January 15, 2024

Treasurer’s Report:

Received Warrants 2024-04F (1/26/24), 2024-04P (1/26/24), 2024-07F (2/16/24), 2024-07P (2/16/24) and 2024-8F (02/23/24)

Resolution 19F-2024: Presented the Abstract of Vouchers that were paid on 02/16/2024, 02/23/2024 and to be paid on 03/01/2024

Motion by Commissioner Miller, seconded by Green Jr. to approve Vouchers for payment. Ayes Sexton, Messina, Green Jr. Miller. Opposed None, Absent Donnelly. Carried.

Monthly Treasurer’s Report: NONE RECIEVED

Bid Openings

None

Secretary Report:

Resolution 20F-2024: Motion by Commissioner Greene Jr., seconded by Commissioner Messina to approve the resignation of Station 4 Member Mark Pradun
Ayes Sexton, Messina, Green Jr. Miller. Opposed None, Absent Donnelly. Carried.

The Fire Advisory Board Officers of Company 2, 3 and 4 have reviewed the Vestal Fire Department Applications and conducted interviews with the applicants below. Each has been voted on and have been accepted by the members of their companies at their recent regular company meetings. The Fire District Administration Office conducts a thorough review with the Broome County Sheriff's Office - Volunteer Firefighter Inquiry Form for Arson and Sex Offender for each proposed member listed below with no arson or sex offender records found.

Resolution 21F-2024: Motion by Commissioner Messina, seconded by Commissioner Greene Jr. to approve Timothy Traver to join Station 2, Cole Abbott to join Station 3 and Taninnat Yosanankatanyu to join Station 4.
Ayes Sexton, Messina, Green Jr. Miller. Opposed None, Absent Donnelly. Carried.

Resolution 22F- 2024: Motion by Commissioner Miller, seconded Commissioner Greene Jr. to approve to send a stand by crew with Engine 32-1 to the Endwell Fire District to cover for Endwell Fire Department while their members attend their Annual Banquet on March 23, 2024 from 18:00 to 00:00.
Ayes Sexton, Messina, Green Jr. Miller. Opposed None, Absent Donnelly. Carried.

Resolution 23F- 2024: Motion by Commissioner Messina, seconded by Commissioner Greene Jr. to approve Station 4 fundraiser of Firehouse Subs at the Old Station 4 parking lot on the Vestal Parkway East the week of March 4th to the 9th .
Ayes Sexton, Messina, Green Jr. Miller. Opposed None, Absent Donnelly. Carried.

Management, Oversight & Policy:

Governance Committee activity for February included an extensive committee function and mission overview presentation to the entire fire department membership on 2/5/24. Committee meetings occurred on 2/7/24, Fire Advisory Board meeting participation 2/19/24 and Insurance Policy review on 2/21/24. These committee meetings included detailed discussion of budget timeline and financial planning, search for Fire District Treasurer appointment once the separation is completed. PFAS foam mitigation plan and strategy discussed. Insurance policy review and explanation of coverage meeting with providers, this included apparatus and facility policy coverage discussion on limits and policy. It was determined that the new Fire Station 4 on Jensen Road lacked adequate coverage and this matter is being addressed. Meeting with on 2/22/24 included the Fire District Attorney, Town Supervisor, Deputy Town Supervisor, Town Attorney and Fire District Secretary regarding separation of the Fire District from Town Board's governance. Discussion on the process to follow moving forward with the separation plan under attorney guidance and oversight. Governance Committee meetings with the District Fire Chief will occur on a monthly basis to address any concerns and issues; next meeting scheduled for 3/6/24.

Finance / Records Management:

Review and analysis of the of Fire District financials for the twenty-five-year plan for the capital apparatus replacement and capital building improvements. Continue to review and analysis of the current 2024 fiscal plan for operational expense, major projects, apparatus, equipment and building repairs and maintenance. Work continues on the 2024 FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant and NYS V-FIRE Grant application process. Records management and documentation continue to be updated and entries of data into the REDNMX program. Update to the 2023 fire reports will be completed soon. Quality and process improvements will be addressed in the annual fire officer training in March.

Resolution 24F-2024: Motion by Commissioner Miller, seconded by Commissioner Greene Jr. to approve District Chief John Paffie's request to delegate authority to the Vestal Fire Department's Assistant Chiefs and Station Captains to authorize requisition's up to \$500 limit. This will provide efficiency in operations and assure readiness.

Ayes Sexton, Messina, Green Jr. Miller. Opposed None, Absent Donnelly. Carried.

Resolution 25F-2024: Motion by Commissioner Greene Jr., seconded by Commissioner Miller, for the Board of Fire Commissioners to accept the Broome County CA 9-422RRR under the Broome County Small Community Grant Program in the amount of \$20,000 to support the Fred Singer Training Site Tower and to approve Chairwoman Sexton to sign said contract.

Ayes Sexton, Messina, Green Jr. Miller. Opposed None, Absent Donnelly. Carried.

To move forward with the PFAS foam mitigation plan, the fire district will need to advertise for bids to purchase new National Foam Universal Green 3/3% ARSFFF to replace any existing Class B Foam containing PFAS. The cost to replace the foam is over \$20,000. Due to this being a high priority, the Fire District will need to use \$43,000 from the Assigned Fund Balance of the Special Foam District to cover the cost. Attached in the addendums is Foam Guidance from NYS OFPC from October 2022 regard the importance of this.

Resolution 26F-2024: Motion by Commissioner Miller, seconded by Commissioner Greene Jr., to approve to advertise for bids to purchase (4) 275-gallon totes of the National Foam Universal Green 3/3% ARSFFF to be advertised on Wednesday, March 6, 2024 in the Press-Sun Bulletin Paper and online, along with posting on the Town's website under the Fire District. Bid will be open on Wednesday, March 13, 2024 at 1:00 pm in the Fire District Office.

Ayes Sexton, Messina, Green Jr. Miller. Opposed None, Absent Donnelly. Carried.

Resolution 27F-2024: Motion by Commissioner Messina, seconded by Commissioner Greene Jr. to approve a budget transfer from the Special Foam District Fund Balance to F3410.4034R in the amount of \$43,000 to cover the purchase cost of the National Foam Universal Green 3/3% ARSFFF.

Ayes Sexton, Messina, Green Jr. Miller. Opposed None, Absent Donnelly. Carried.

Update on the Foam Mitigation plan: Due to the high priority to remove the foam containing PFAS from the trucks and premises of the Fire District we will need to use the Unassigned General Fund Balance to cover the cost to remove and dispose of the foam. Awaiting more information from Buckeye on this process.

Resolution 28F-2024: Motion by Commissioner Greene Jr., seconded by Commissioner Miller to approve a Budget Transfer to spend up to \$34,999 from the Unassigned General Fund Balance to F3410 4000 to cover the cost for Hazardous Materials Removal of the Class B Foam and AFFF containing PFAS Chemicals.

Ayes Sexton, Messina, Green Jr. Miller. Opposed None, Absent Donnelly. Carried.

Resolution 29F-2024: Motion by Commissioner Miller, seconded by Commissioner Greene Jr. to approve to accept the renewal proposal from ESIP's through Smith Brothers Insurance in the amount of \$71,361 which covers Commercial Package, Commercial Inland Marine, Commercial Umbrella and Cyber Liability.

Ayes Sexton, Messina, Green Jr. Miller. Opposed None, Absent Donnelly. Carried.

Due to the unexpected increase, the Fire District will need to do a budget transfer from the Unassigned General Fund Balance in the amount of \$12,000 to cover the increase in Commercial Insurance.

Resolution 30F-2024: Motion by Commissioner Miller, seconded by Commissioner Greene Jr. to approve a budget transfer of \$12,000 from the Unassigned General Fund Balance to F3410 4070 to cover the increase of the commercial insurance.

Ayes Sexton, Messina, Green Jr. Miller. Opposed None, Absent Donnelly. Carried.

Resolution 31F-2024: Motion by Commissioner Messina, seconded by Commissioner Miller to approve a budget transfer of \$8,400 from the Unassigned General Fund Balance to F3410 4080 to cover the repair cost of Station 2 Heat system, a critical repair that was not planned.

Ayes Sexton, Messina, Green Jr. Miller. Opposed None, Absent Donnelly. Carried.

Resolution 32F-2024: Motion by Commissioner Greene Jr., seconded by Commissioner Miller to approve the budget purchase of a Hydra Ram in the amount of \$2,403.00 for Station 1.

Ayes Sexton, Messina, Green Jr. Miller. Opposed None, Absent Donnelly. Carried.

Resolution 33F-2024: Motion by Commissioner Miller, seconded by Commissioner Greene Jr. to approve the budget purchase of (10) 100' Lengths of 5" Mercedes Textiles Ld Hose in the amount of \$9,250.00 for Special Foam District.

Ayes Sexton, Messina, Green Jr. Miller. Opposed None, Absent Donnelly. Carried.

Resolution 34F-2024: Motion by Commissioner Greene Jr., seconded by Commissioner Miller to approve the budget purchase of MSA Lunar TIC in the amount of \$2,665.03 for Station 3.

Ayes Sexton, Messina, Green Jr. Miller. Opposed None, Absent Donnelly. Carried.

Resolution 35F-2024: Motion by Commissioner Messina, seconded by Commissioner Greene Jr. to approve the budget purchase of (2) 20" SuperVac PPV Fan w/ Milwaukee Batteries in the amount of \$5,662.50 each for Station 1 and Station 2.

Ayes Sexton, Messina, Green Jr. Miller. Opposed None, Absent Donnelly. Carried.

Resolution 36F-2024: Motion by Commissioner Miller, seconded by Commissioner Greene Jr. to approve the budget purchase of (1) Elkhart Standpipe Kit in the amount of \$1498.95 for Station 4.

Ayes Sexton, Messina, Green Jr. Miller. Opposed None, Absent Donnelly. Carried.

Resolution 37F-2024: Motion by Commissioner Miller, seconded by Commissioner Greene Jr. to approve the budget purchase of Thermal Panels with Hardware for Fred Singer Training Site in the amount of \$2,958.89.

Ayes Sexton, Messina, Green Jr. Miller. Opposed None, Absent Donnelly. Carried.

Training / Safety:

Training plan, schedule and topics for the fire department reviewed. Review and implementation of enhanced training documentation form for use across the department. Training Bureau meeting conducted on 2/2/24. Annual fire officer training scheduled for 3/9/24. Fred Singer Training Site report reviewed for activity and maintenance items that need immediate corrective actions. Investigation reviewed for parking lot accident occurring 1/16/24 at Fire Station 1; cause determination found to be due to unanticipated snow storm icing conditions in the parking lot. Safety Officer concerns addressed regarding investigation of complaints regarding non-compliance to various policies and practices; guidance provided. 2024-member physical plan sent to fire officers and list of non-completion for member physicals conveyed to officers. Compliance to policy administered to members.

Resolution 38F-2024: Motion by Commissioner Miller, seconded by Commissioner Greene Jr. to approve Fire Department Members to attend NYS OFPC Outreach Courses and FEMA ICS Online Course as listed below:

Retroactive approval for Lt. Sacha Sigelman-Schwartz **to attend Office Emergency Management G-191 ICS/EOC interface**

Retroactive approve for Asst. Chief Steve Langeland and FF Alane McKeon for **Fire Alarms for the Fire Service at Vestal Fire Department #3 February 3rd.**

Lt. Steve Gallo, FF Mike Woodward, FF Alex Zimmer, FF Tim Zimmer, Lt. Sacha Sigelman-Schwartz for **Fire Alarms for the Fire Service at Vestal Fire Department #3 from February 27th to February 29th**

Assistant Foreman Thomas Bowen for **Fire Officer I – Leadership & Supervision at Town of Binghamton #2 from March 5th to April 2nd**

FF Alana McKeon for **The Rules Have Changed...The Firefighter's Guide to Lightweight Wood Construction at Vestal Fire Department #3 from March 12th to March 21st.**

FF Ean Conti, FF David Kublei and FF Anthony Mazzeo for **Interior Firefighting Operations at Endwell Fire Department from March 19th to April 23rd**

Captain Bill Fletcher, Captain Scott Orcutt, FF Tim Zimmer and FF Mike Woodward for **Apparatus Operator: Pump Operator at Vestal Fire Department #3 from April 9th to May 2nd**

Assistant Foreman Thomas Bowen for **Fire Officer I – Firefighter Health and Safety at Chenango Fire Department # 1 from April 9th to April 17th**

Assistant Foreman Thomas Bowen for **Fire Officer I – Company Training & Community Risk Reduction at Town of Binghamton #2 from April 30th to May 21st**

Ayes Sexton, Messina, Green Jr. Miller. Opposed None, Absent Donnelly. Carried.

Resolution 39F-2024: Commissioner Messina, seconded by Commissioner Greene Jr. to approve the following breakdown of travel expenses for Assist Fire Chief Charles Paffie and Captain Scott Orcutt travel expenses to College Station, Texas:

Airfare: \$1,288.40

Hotel: \$1,287.14

Car Rental: \$397.06

Meals will follow the GSA per Diem rates for meals for College Station.

Additional incidentals such as parking and third-party Turnout Gear rental will be turned in at the completion of the trip.

Ayes Sexton, Messina, Green Jr. Miller. Opposed None, Absent Donnelly. Carried.

Commissioner Messina requested Governance Committee Chair McCartney to highlight about the Foam School.

Governance Committee Chair McCartney advised that the foam school is held at the Texas A&M University facility in College Station, Texas. It is probably one of the best hands on and classroom flammable liquid firefighting schools in the country. Governance Committee Chair McCartney attended that program in 1982 with Fred Singer; it was their first delivery of that. The fire department have been attending the program since 1982.

Assistant Fire Chief Paffie was asked how many members the fire department has sent to the school. He advised that the department was sending 2 at a time, every year up until just before COVID. It is an estimate of 15-18 people have gone to through the school and some of those that have attend have left the department.

Governance Committee Chair McCartney stated it's an investment into the education. The Fire Department haa the responsibility to fight a flammable liquid fire at the tank farms. Plus, if you count the number of trucks that are coming through Vestal to be refueled at the Tank Farm, there are 100 trucks a day. Most of the trucks are anywhere between 11 and 14,000 gallons each of gasoline or diesel fuel coming through town. Not only do we have that, but the Binghamton Johnson City Joint Sewage Treatment Plant has a methanol process. There's 10,000 gallons of pure methanol that comes through town; twice a month and the only way to put that fire out is with this special foam and the special training. So there is a unique risk here. The Fire Department put the posture in place that they are going to make sure their people have the right training and the right equipment to fight these fires. No one else is going to come fight these fires for them. It's a risk that they have to do. He asked Commissioner Messina if that addressed her question.

Commissioner Messina she replied yes, she just wanted to get the background of the Foam School and the need to attend.

Building & Grounds / Quartermaster / IT:

Station 1 roof repair agreement reached with insurance company. \$146,361.67 less \$500.00 deductible for roof replacement. Repair contractor is being scheduled to complete the work. New Station 4 certificate of occupancy received. Punch list completed. Work continues on proposals and quotes for the 2025 fire district building and grounds budget. Emergency repairs completed for Station 1 heat system. Work continues for decommissioning old Station 4. The fire alarm system for old Station 4 remains out of service, attempting to make repairs and necessary. Quartermaster continues to document and update the fire department inventory utilizing the REDNMX program. IT computer use policy aligned with the town IT computer use policy. Quotes and proposals for the 2025 budget continue to be reviewed.

Fleet Management:

Annual aerial device testing completed for 2024 for both Tower 1 and 4. Fleet maintenance and inspections continue. New Engine 3 placed in service, old Engine 3 taken out of service permanently. New Engine 2 awaiting HVAC update. Old Engine 2 out of service due to brake system malfunction. It is expected that the new Engine 2 should be in service soon. Fleet Management plan and financial strategy for 20-year replacement reviewed and revised.

Chief's Report

- Operational report, alarm report, highlights of significant incidents, response to SUNY, mutual aid received and given, Broome Co. OES and NYS OFPC inquiries, station activity, fire prevention / education, Foam mitigation.

There were 80 incidents from 1/24 to 2/28. Twenty-one (21) of them Binghamton University calls. Significant Incidents. Fire Department had the car into the White Rose Building which had a minor fire under the hood, major damage to the building and minor entrapment. Firefighters got him out relatively quick. No serious injuries there.

Governance Committee Chair McCartney stated that there was significant collaboration between Police, Fire, EMS and Public Works.

Assistant Fire Chief Paffie continued. Everyone kind of got there at the same time, so everyone just jumped in. The Fire Department had two mutual aid calls to the Town to Binghamton and to Susquehanna County.

Last month, Station 4 had two groups tour the building, One Boy Scout group with about 14 people plus their parents. A Girl Scout troops also came through. They had about 20 Girls and their parents. It that was good. Firefighter did fire prevention for them. The troops really enjoyed it. The foam mitigation was covered. The Fire Department is moving forward with the removal of and purchase of.

Governance Committee Chair McCartney that Assistant Fire Chief Paffie has been very, very involved with the foam mitigation project and it's something that definitely has to get done and hopefully have this done during the month of March.

Assistant Fire Chief Paffie continued that there are six empty totes at Station 4, waiting to see where the foam transfer is actually going to take place.

Commissioner Miller had a question in regards to Binghamton University calls versus the rest of the calls. Are they about 20% - 25%?

Assistant Fire Chief Paffie advised sometimes.

Commissioner Miller asked if it varies a lot?

Assistant Fire Chief Paffie advised it does.

Governance Committee Chair McCartney advised that it depends on the occupancy of the campus. When they're in session, the fire department receives a lot of calls. They don't teach cooking food in the college. There's a lot of burnt food calls.

Commissioner Messina stated nobody knows how to cook microwave popcorn with Commissioner Greene Jr. agreeing.

Assistant Fire Chief Paffie advised that the biggest problem is that they love to use oil. They don't clean the tops of the stoves and then when the next guy comes in turns on the stove it just smoke. Which trips the alarm.

Commissioner Miller thanked Assistant Fire Chief Paffie for the explanation.

Governance Committee Chair McCartney advised that there are alarms that the Vestal Fire Department responds to, but they also have what they call supervisory alarms that meets the criteria under the Office of Fire Prevention Control that do not require a fire department response. Police officer responds, determines no fire, resets the alarm, and that's a significant number also.

Assistant Fire Chief Paffie advised when the fire department first started doing this back in '06 and '07, the calls doubled, so we were going 5-6 hundred times a year to BU. The Fire Department worked with them. Then they initiated the supervisor alarm response, which cost a lot of money to have the alarm company come in and reprogram their alarm systems. So, they've been working with the fire department.

Commissioner Chairwoman Sexton intergraded that she is going to set up a meeting between herself, Governance Committee Chair McCartney, Both District Chief Paffie and Assistant Fire Chief Paffie, hopefully, President Kirchheimer and BU. So, in order to make sure that there is ongoing communication so that they can talk out any issues as they go forward.

Assistant Fire Chief Paffie advised that they used to meet annually with when COVID happened it by the wayside and it hasn't happened since.

Governance Committee Chair McCartney advised the idea is to push to try and do quarterly at minimum with them. Assistant Fire Chief Paffie is there sometimes multiple times a day and the relationship between Station 4 and the university first responders, the university police, their environmental health and safety is incredible. Everybody knows everybody first name basis, we have a direct means of communications with them. It's a working partnership and it is good. When something bad happens there, everybody pulls together so.

Commissioner Miller inquired whose police officer responds to the supervisory alarm.

Assistant Fire Chief Paffie advised Binghamton University Campus Police.

Assistant Fire Chief Paffie explained a single head activation almost anywhere in public spaces and common spaces will get warned. A single head will trip before warm, like in a dorm, if a single alarm comes in, it's a supervisor. Until it hits 2 heads and then it goes to full alarm.

Governance Committee Chair McCartney explained, the Chief Officers monitor the radio traffic, they will hear them go out on a supervisory alarm and then next thing you know, the transmission is now reporting a second head is activated. We know that fire department can respond. If it's serious, it will be followed by a 911 call. Their dispatch center ties directly into Boone County's dispatch center. We will know pretty fast that something bad is going on at the university.

Governance Committee Chair McCartney ask Assistant Fire Chief Stout if he had anything to the Chief's Report. Assistant Fire Chief Stout advised he did not.

Old Business

None

New Business

Governance Committee Chair McCartney ask President Dan Kirchheimer to speak on the Fire Department and Social Media.

Department President Dan Kirchheimer introduced himself to the Board and those present. It was brought up to them that they could probably do a little better with outreach to the community, showing the community what we're all about and also potentially using it as a way to recruit. There's been a pretty intentional push to do more with social media, particularly Facebook. Just a couple of statistics, partially due to our newly appointed department Historian Tim Traver, that was approved tonight to be joining Station 2. He also runs Vintage Vestal. The Fire Department's Facebook page is up by 289%. Interactions are up by 214% and had 16,400 likes, all in the past two months. The activity is twice the average for most Facebook postings. The outreach in December was 50,000 back before making this push. At this point it's 172,000. These trends are really positive and the hope is that it helps facilitate more interaction with our community. To increase visibility when votes take place. The Fire Department can get it the word out easier, if it's already being utilized. The Fire

Department is working on a public service announcement campaign with WBNG. It's again two-fold purpose. The Fire Department trying to create awareness about what they do, particularly that the firefighters are all volunteer. Secondly open up a new avenue for recruitment. The Fire Department working with WBNG's creative team to create four different versions, one for each station, showcasing each station's unique character and abilities. President Kirchheimer stated that they actually gotten a grant from WBNG to make the public service campaign happen it won't cost the fire department or fire district anything. Incidentally, last minute WBNG reach out to our Fire District Secretary Sue Bowen, who pointed them to President Kirchheimer who did a brief interview at Station 1. The interview was mainly on the merits of the Volunteer Fire service in general, so it wasn't the Vestal in particular, but certainly threw it in there.

Commissioner Miller inquired if the Fire Department is going to have a new website, as well?

President Dan Kirchheimer don't know if they were doing a complete revamp or a refurbishment. Governance Committee Chair McCartney interjected that it could be a refurbishment. May change from it saying Vestal Fire Department to maybe say Town of Vestal Fire Department. It'll just be a quick refresh, but everything we've been doing hasn't been existing. But when we make the change to the new fire district, it's just a fresh coat of paint really. It's been going on since 1927.

Department President Dan Kirchheimer continued that he wished he could take more of the credit for this but between Chair McCartney, the Governance Committee and Tim Traver, it's been pretty impressive.

Commissioner Miller ask if the fire department has anything else besides Facebook.

Department President Dan Kirchheimer advised that the department has Instagram and X (formally Twitter). Not much is being done on Instagram and X is good for pushing information such as for an incident that may be going on to avoid that area. For routine items like the training site and the history, Facebook is good for that.

Governance Committee Chair McCartney advised that the fire department has a team of people that address Facebook. The officers have looked at it and they'd like to make some changes to it, so some adjustments were made to it. One of the things was to put an Orientation of a featured article or featured story. Example, The Pierce Hill Rd. road closure was a featured story and first thing that popped up. It's those kind items on our end that we call chiefs announcements. The team is going to look at some themes, maybe some throwback Tuesday and throwback Thursday with some of our history. The town is very rich in history of things that have taken place.

Public Comments:

None

Commissioners Comments:

Commissioner Chairwoman Sexton wanted to say thank you. Thank you for all the hard work and the entire governance committee. And thank you to all our volunteers.

Commissioner Messina wanted to say Tim Traver is an awesome addition as the historian, because Vintage Vestal has been going strong for at least 10 years and he has a huge following and there is a lot of the history is on his site, some of it he's transferring over to Vestal Fire and some of it he's putting up new. It's his passion and he's really excited about it. All those people followed him right to Vestal Fire. You could see the numbers increase. So great job.

Announcements

NYS Annual Open Burn Ban will be in effect from March 16, 2024 through May 14, 2024.

Governance Committee Chair McCartney advised that the will respond to a brush fire calls and if necessary, pursue the proper channels if something needs to be dealt with because somebody was burning. Generally, it's a DEC violation. So whether it's the Encon officers or Forest Rangers get involved in issuing a citation, working through the Police Department and the fire department.

A few suggestions were made to put the announcement on the Electronic signboard, non-electric signboards, websites, etc.

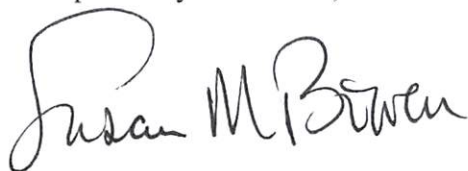
Commissioner Chairwoman Sexton asked she could announce it at the Town Board meeting?

Governance Committee Chair McCartney stated yes, absolutely. Because it is a concern in the Community here and it's been a mild winter. We're going to get into the season of brush fires and we've seen significant brush fires in this community over the past years.

Next meeting of the Fire District will be March 27, 2024 at 5pm

Motion by Commissioner Greene Jr., seconded by Commissioner Miller to adjourn the meeting at 5:35pm. Ayes Sexton, Messina, Green Jr. Miller. Opposed None, Absent Donnelly. Carried.

Respectively Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susan M. Bowen". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Susan Bowen
Fire District Secretary