



**VESTAL FIRE DISTRICT  
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONER  
REGULAR MEETING – MEETING MINUTES**

**Date: April 24, 2024**

**Present:**

Commissioner Maria Sexton  
Commissioner Sue Messina  
Commissioner Stephen Donnelly  
Commissioner Robert Greene Jr.  
Commissioner Glenn Miller

**Others Present:** Susan Bowen, Fire District Secretary  
Paige Willes, Director of Purchasing  
John Paffie, District Fire Chief  
Charles Paffie, Assistant Fire Chief  
Daniel Kirchheimer, Dept. President  
4 members from the Public

**Governance Committee:**

Chairman: Thomas McCartney  
Vice Chairman: Dave Harrington  
Member: Ron Birdsall

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

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

At this time Chairwoman M. Sexton would like to turn the meeting over to Governance Committee Chairman Thomas McCartney, who has been working so hard, has been doing an incredible job. So, Chairwoman M. Sexton once again wanted to thank him publicly.

Motion by Commissioner Messina, seconded by Commissioner Miller to Approval of Minutes of the Fire District Meeting of March 27, 2024 All in Favor: 5, Opposed: None, Absent: None.

**Correspondence:**

- Fire Advisory Board Meeting Minutes for March 18, 2024
- Association of Fire Districts of the State of New York Newsletter for APRIL 24 – MAY 24

**Treasurer's Report:**

Received Warrants 2024-14F (04/05/2024) and Warrant 2024-15F (04/12/2024)

**Resolution 59F-2024:** Presented the Abstract of Vouchers that were paid on 04/05/2024, 04/12/2024, and to be paid on 04/26/2024

Motion by Commissioner Donnelly, seconded by Commissioner Miller to approve Vouchers for payment., All in Favor: 5, Opposed: None, Absent: None.

**Resolution 60F-2024:** Motioned by Commissioner Messina, seconded by Commissioner Miller to approve the following receipt of checks:

Apalachin Fire District in the Amount of \$800.00 for annual Lease of the Fred Singer Training Facility.

Endwell Fire District in the Amount of \$800.00 for annual Lease of the Fred Singer Training Facility.

Union Center Fire Company in the Amount of \$800.00 for annual Lease of the Fred Singer Training Facility.

All in Favor: 5, Opposed: None, Absent: None.

**Monthly Treasurer's Report:** Awaiting November 2023 to January 2024 Income & Expense Reports with the missing Income Reports. Waiting for February and March's Income & Expense.

**Bid Openings**

No Bids were received on April 22<sup>nd</sup> at 11am in the Fire District Office for AFFF Foam Mitigation Bid Specification requests were received by:

- 1) Heritage Environmental Service LLC, 6510 Telecom Drive, Suite 400, Indianapolis, IN 46278
- 2) Deltek, Inc, 2291 Wood Oak, Dr., Herdon, VA 20171

**Secretary Report:**

Publication for the Permissive Referendum to use funds from the Capital Building and Grounds Reserve Fund will end on May 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Advertisement for the AFFF Foam Mitigation was published on April 11<sup>th</sup> instead of April 8<sup>th</sup> due to delay on receiving information from the Fire Department on the Bid Specification.

Advertisement to purchase the Breathing Air Compressor for Station 4 was removed prior to publication due to upgrading the bid specification.

The Fire Advisory Board Officers of Company 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 Company 4 at their recent 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 61F-2024:** Motion by Commissioner Miller, seconded by Commissioner Greene to approve Marko Boyko, Jason Chenyak, Peterson Kressly and Ryan Scarangella to join Station 4. All in Favor: 5, Opposed: None, Absent: None.

**Resolution 62F-2024:** Motion by Commissioner Donnelly, seconded by Commissioner Miller to approve Station 4 fundraiser of Firehouse Subs (Firehouse Concessions) at the Old Station 4 parking lot on the Vestal Parkway the week of May 6<sup>th</sup> to the 10<sup>th</sup>.

All in Favor: 5, Opposed: None, Absent: None.

**Resolution 63F-2024:** Motion by Commissioner Donnelly, seconded by Commissioner Greene to approve Station 3 for a fundraiser with Doug's Fish Fry on Monday, July 29<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 to 18:00 at Tractor Supply Parking Lot at Four Corners.

All in Favor: 5, Opposed: None, Absent: None.

## **Management, Oversight & Policy:**

### **Governance Committee Update:**

- Public Hearing May 8, 2024, at 6:00 pm - “Why form a Fire District”. This will be at the Town Hall.
- Meeting held between the Governance Committee and the 5 Fire Chiefs. Topics included Fleet Strategy, Vehicle Use Policy development, Documentation of vehicle use, Finance Strategy, OSHA 1910.156, and Stay in Your Lane presentation from the NYS Association of Fire Districts.
  - Very positive meeting overall. The Chiefs and the Governance Committee will meet monthly moving forward. Next meet is scheduled for 5/15/24 at 6:00pm.
- The chair of the Governance Committee will be meeting monthly with the Town Comptroller and Deputy Comptroller to review fire district finance. The next meeting is scheduled for 5/15/24 at 2:00pm.
- All fundraising events must be approved by the BOFC as per NYS General Municipal Law section 204-a and Fire District Policy # 300.00.

**Resolution 64F-2024:** Motion by Commissioner Messina, seconded by Commissioner Donnelly to approve to hire Marisa Butler of Vestal, NY as a CPA consultant for the Vestal Fire District at a rate of \$85 per hour, not to exceed 275 from May 15, 2024 to August 31, 2024 or sooner depending on when the New Fire District is established.

All in Favor: 5, Opposed: None, Absent: None.

## **Finance / Records Management:**

### **Governance Committee Update:**

- 5/20-year plan (thru 2050) for Capital (fleet and buildings) has been established in a preliminary format. Proposed future tax increases are being analyzed to effectively support the plan. Review by a senior financial advisor on 4/18/24.
  - Governance Committee Chairman, T. McCartney explained a meeting was held with Laura McKane, she was very helpful. The meeting also included Dave Harrington. She provided some sound guidance.
- The hire of a new finance consultant for the Fire District is in progress. Start date is 5/15/2024. Financial bookkeeping software package being procured. Transfer of Fire District funds to be made to new bank accounts as soon as new EIN is acquired and separation is completed. A dedicated Fire District Treasurer will be in place upon formation of the new fire district.

**Resolution 65F-2024: STANDARDIZATION for BAUER AIR COMPRESSOR SYSTEM BE IT RESOLVED,** by the Board of Fire Commissioners of the Vestal Fire District in the Town of Vestal, Broome County, State of New York, as follows:

Section 1. According to Article 5-a of the General Municipal Law expenditures exceeding \$10,000.00 must comply with the provisions of public bidding requirements set forth in Section 103 of the General Municipal Law. This requirement is also set forth in the bidding policy established by the Board of Fire Commissioners of the Vestal Fire District on the 11<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2024.

Section 2. A board of fire commissioners is allowed an exception to part of the public bidding requirement as set forth in Section 103(5) of the General Municipal Law, upon a resolution by a vote of least three-fifths of the members of the board of fire commissioners. This resolution must state that for reasons of economy or efficiency there is a need for standardization. Thereafter the board may award purchase contracts for a particular type or kind of equipment, materials or supplies. However, the board must award the bid to the lowest responsible bidder, after the furnishing of security, and advertisement for bids.

Section 3. The board makes the following observations, comments and findings regarding standardization for breathing air equipment components (systems, cascade, filters, air compressors and fittings)

All Vestal Fire District air compressors and cascade systems are currently Bauer Compressors, INC.

Standardizing this equipment will reduce the number of training hours for the members who operate the breathing air systems. Standardizing this technology creates efficiency and continuity in the process during emergencies. One service contract will handle maintenance and testing of breathing air systems. This includes Tower 1, Tower 4, Rescue 2, Rescue 1, Air Trailer, Compressor at Station 1 and the new compressor at Station 4.

Section 4. For reasons of economy and efficiency, there is a need to standardize to **BAUER COMPRESSORS, INC.**, as the Vestal Fire District's choice for breathing air equipment components (systems, cascade, filters, air compressors and fittings)

Motion by Commissioner Messina, seconded by Commissioner Miller to approve.

All in Favor: 5, Opposed: None, Absent: None.

#### **Resolution 66F-2024: STANDARDIZATION for NATIONAL FOAM**

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Fire Commissioners of the Vestal Fire District in the Town of Vestal, Broome County, State of New York, as follows:

Section 1. According to Article 5-a of the General Municipal Law expenditures exceeding \$10,000.00 must comply with the provisions of public bidding requirements set forth in Section 103 of the General Municipal Law. This requirement is also set forth in the bidding policy established by the Board of Fire Commissioners of the Vestal Fire District on the 11<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2024.

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Section 3. The board makes the following observations, comments and findings regarding standardization for firefighting foam.

The foam in the Foam Truck, New Engines and the current purchased foam totes are all National Foam Products. National Foam Products have been a staple in the Vestal Fire Department's inventory over the years. NFPA states that the mixing of different brands of the same type of formulation is not recommended due to possible chemical and physical differences which could adversely affect the stability and performance of a foam concentrate. The Vestal Fire Department recommends using for National Foam Class A Knockdown for Class A Foam and National Foam Universal Green for Class B foam.

Section 4. For reasons of economy and efficiency, there is a need to standardize to **NATIONAL FOAM PRODUCTS** as the Vestal Fire District's choice for Firefighting Foam.

Motion by Commissioner Donnelly, seconded by Commissioner Greene to approve.

All in Favor: 5, Opposed: None, Absent: None.

#### **Resolution 67F-2024: STANDARDIZATION of ACCOUNTING SOFTWARE**

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Fire Commissioners of the Vestal Fire District in the Town of Vestal, Broome County, State of New York, as follows:

Section 1. According to Article 5-a of the General Municipal Law expenditures exceeding \$10,000.00 must comply with the provisions of public bidding requirements set forth in Section 103 of the General Municipal Law. This requirement is also set forth in the bidding policy established by the Board of Fire Commissioners of the Vestal Fire District on the 11<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2024.

Section 2. A board of fire commissioners is allowed an exception to part of the public bidding requirement as set forth in Section 103(5) of the General Municipal Law, upon a resolution by a vote of least three-fifths of the members of the board of fire commissioners. This resolution must state that for reasons of economy or efficiency there is a need for standardization. Thereafter the board may award purchase contracts for a particular type or kind of equipment, materials or supplies. However, the board must award the bid to the lowest responsible bidder, after the furnishing of security, and advertisement for bids.

Section 3. The board makes the following observations, comments and findings regarding standardization for accounting software.

The recommendation came by the incoming treasurer to use the Intuit QuickBooks Accounting Software as the person is familiar with it and has worked with it as a CPA. A lot of Fire Districts use Intuit QuickBooks as their preferred software.

Section 4. For reasons of economy and efficiency, there is a need to standardize to **INTUIT QUICKBOOKS ACCOUNTING SOFTWARE** as the Vestal Fire District's choice for Accounting software.

Motion by Commissioner Messina, seconded by Commissioner Miller to approve.

All in Favor: 5, Opposed: None, Absent: None.

#### **Resolution 68F-2024: PERMISSIVE REFERNDUM to USE FUNDS FROM CAPITAL EQUIPMENT RESERVES**

New Engine 32-2 and 32-3 were approved at a Mandatory Referendum on July 13, 2021 to bond for \$1,500,000 for the purchase of these engines. Items that were also included as part of the project had

a price increase upon delivery which put the project over. To complete the project, an amount of \$15,000 is needed from the Capital Equipment Reserve and transfer to F3410 2230CR at the completion of the Permissive Referendum.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Fire Commissioners of the Vestal Fire District, in the Town of Vestal, pursuant to the provisions of Section 64 of the Town Law, hereby to spend from the Fire District’s Capital Equipment Reserve Fund in the amount of \$15,000 for additional work and purchases needed to complete the New Engine 32-2 and New Engine 32-3 projects.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution is subject to a Permissive Referendum, notice of which shall be posted and published in accordance with Section 90 of the Town Law.

A vote was then taken upon the motion for adoption with the following results:

<u>MARIA SEXTON, Chairman</u>	<u>VOTING</u>	<u>AYE</u>
<u>SUE MESSINA, Fire Commissioner</u>	<u>VOTING</u>	<u>AYE</u>
<u>STEPHEN DONNELLY, Fire Commissioner</u>	<u>VOTING</u>	<u>AYE</u>
<u>ROBERT GREENE JR., Fire Commissioner</u>	<u>VOTING</u>	<u>AYE</u>
<u>GLENN MILLER, Fire Commissioner</u>	<u>VOTING</u>	<u>AYE</u>

Publication of the Legal Notice for Permissive Referendum will be advertised on Wednesday, May 1, 2024 in the Binghamton Press and Sun Bulletin.

**Resolution 69F- 2024:** Motion by Commissioner Donnelly, seconded by Commissioner Greene to re-advertise for bids for Mitigation of all foam containing PFAS from the apparatus and premises of the Fire District. Publication will be placed in the Binghamton Press and Sun Bulletin and online on May 1<sup>st</sup> and will be open on May 22<sup>nd</sup> in the Fire District Office at 1pm.

All in Favor: 5, Opposed: None, Absent: None.

- Asst. C. Paffie wanted to address that the companies he requested quotes for were taking them 4 to 5 weeks to get back to him. So, 3 weeks may not be enough time.
- Governance Committee Chairman, T. McCartney stated he was hoping that the last 2 companies that didn’t get in that asked the questions, maybe they will get it this time. He said he received contact from Buckeye with their vendor in Chicago, they should have a quote by this week. It may very well come in under \$35,000 limit, which means a permissive referendum.
- Fire District Secretary, Sue Bowen explained it would be awarded to the lowest bidder, but with other bids, if they come in higher then that, then its just as good to advertise for bids.
- Governance Committee Chairman, T. McCartney says this has been a terrific struggle. Asst. C. Paffie has been working countless hours trying to get this together but the foam needs to be disposed of. So hopefully it will get done this time.
- Asst C. Paffie asked for the publishing dates. T. McCartney replied it’s going to go online in the Press and Sun Bulletin on May 1<sup>st</sup> and will be open May 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**Resolution 70F-2024:** Motion by Commissioner Donnelly, seconded by Commissioner Greene to approve the purchase of (6) Yellow Lion American Legend Helmets for a total \$2,210.00.

All in Favor: 5, Opposed: None, Absent: None.

**Resolution 71F-2024:** Motion by Commissioner Miller, seconded by Commissioner Greene to approve the use of Unallocated Unrestricted General Fund Balance in the amount of \$58,000 to Cover the expenses of the new Fire District Treasurer Salary (\$50,000), Software for the Fire District Finance (\$5,300) and 3 new laptops for Fire District Officers (\$2,700).

<u>From Line Item</u>	<u>to Line Item</u>	<u>Amount Requested</u>	<u>Explanation</u>
Unallocated Fund Balance	F3410 1010	\$26,880.00	Cover Salary of Treasurer
	F3410 4000	\$23,120.00	Cover Consulting Services
Unallocated Fund Balance	F3410 4499	\$5,300.00	Purchase Software
Unallocated Fund Balance	F3410 2220	\$2,700.00	Purchase Laptops

All in Favor: 5, Opposed: None, Absent: None.

**Resolution 72F-2024:** Motion by Commissioner Messina, seconded by Commissioner Miller to approve the purchase of Intuit QuickBooks Desktop Enterprise Silver 2024 Licenses for \$5,300 annually.

All in Favor: 5, Opposed: None, Absent: None.

- Commissioner Miller questioned how many licenses. Governance Committee Chairman T. McCartney states he believes it is 10 licenses. He then explains that the fire district and the fire department are standardizing their accounting software. So, the fire department will not be able to see the district funds and the district will not be able to see the fire department's funds. It's going to be consistent, especially when tax returns are filed so that way there won't be 5 different platforms to be able to do this. It's going to create some efficiency.

**Resolution 73F-2024:** Motion by Commissioner Messina, seconded by Commissioner Donnelly to approve the purchase of (5) five Laptop computers for Fire District Officers (Fire District Treasurer, Director of Fleet Management, Quartermaster, Fire Department Records Management Officer and Training Site Coordinator) at \$940 per Laptop.

All in Favor: 5, Opposed: None, Absent: None.

**Resolution 74F-2024:** Motion by Commissioner Messina, seconded by Commissioner Donnelly to approve following budget transfers for the 2023 Budget to cover the deficit of the lines as listed below:

<u>From Line Item</u>	<u>to Line Item</u>	<u>Amount Requested</u>	<u>Explanation</u>
F3410 1000	F3410 1010	\$2,237.00	Cover Coverage in Line
F3410 1000	F3410 1030	\$4,612.00	Cover Coverage in Line
F3410 1000	F3410 1033	\$652.00	Cover Coverage in Line
F3410 1000	F3410 1060	\$1,389.00	Cover Coverage in Line
F3410 1000	F9030 8403	\$153.00	Cover Coverage in Line
F3410 1000	F9045 8405	\$57.00	Cover Coverage in Line
F3410 1000	F9055 8408	\$53.00	Cover Coverage in Line
F3410 1000	F9089 8100	\$1,546.00	Cover Coverage in Line

F3410 1000	F9901 9002	\$334.00	Cover Overage in Line
F3410 4000	F3410 4040	\$1,600.00	Cover Overage in Line
F3410 4010	F3410 4040	\$161.00	Cover Overage in Line
F3410 4010	F3410 4051	\$481.00	Cover Overage in Line
F3410 4060	F3410 4080	\$14,000.00	Cover Overage in Line
F3410 4065	F3410 4080	\$1,300.00	Cover Overage in Line
F3410 4070	F3410 4080	\$644.00	Cover Overage in Line
F3410 4111	F3410 4110	\$199.00	Cover Overage in Line
F3410 4111	F3410 4140	\$9.00	Cover Overage in Line
F3410 4308	F3410 4615	\$475.00	Cover Overage in Line

All in Favor: 5. Opposed: None, Absent: None.

- Governance Committee Chairman, T. McCartney explains the above budget transfers are within budget. There were certain lines within the budget that were over. These are transfers for money from the budget to cover those lines that were deficit.

**Training / Safety:**

**Governance Committee Update:**

- Safety and Security review of the Training Site in progress. The Governance Committee has recommended a wireless video monitoring and recording system be installed to protect the district from liability. The fence around the training site is a Vestal Fire District / Fred Singer Training Site responsibility and will be repaired. Building and Grounds will address the fence.
- Governance Committee T. McCartney states there was a question regarding if the fence at the Fred Singer Training Site belonged to the Water Department. A grant was given to the Fire District, so the Vestal Fire District has full ownership of the fence around the Fred Singer Training Site. Quotes are still waiting to be received on repairing the fence. The intrusion that happened last month at the training site, T. McCartney explains it should mitigate the risk of happening again by increasing the security of the fence along with locking up all the buildings. Buildings & Grounds person is addressing that by getting quotes.

**Resolution 75F-2024:** Motion by Commissioner Messina, seconded by Commissioner Greene to approve Fire Department Member to attend NYS OFPC Outreach Courses as listed below:

Retroactive approval for Firefighter Steven McGraw to attend **Apparatus Operator: Pump Operator at Vestal Fire Department #3 from April 9<sup>th</sup> to May 2<sup>nd</sup>**

All in Favor: 5, Opposed: None, Absent: None.

**Resolution 76F-2024:** Motion by Commissioner Donnelly, seconded by Commissioner Miller to approve a request to send Pumper Tanker 32-2 with personnel to 4345 Stanley Lake Rd in Friendsville Township in Pennsylvania to assist with water supply while they conduct a live burning evolution on a residence on May 5<sup>th</sup> from 8 to 4.

- -Governance Committee Chairman, T. McCartney noted that our personnel will not be participating in the live fire burns. They are only going to be supplying the water for this.

All in Favor: 5, Opposed: None, Absent: None.



**Resolution 77F-2024:** Motion by Commissioner Messina, seconded by Commissioner Miller to approve Thomas McCartney to attend FIRE DISTRICT ADMINISTRATORS' TRAINING SERIES at The Oncenter in Syracuse. The breakdown is as follows:

Course Fees: \$225.00 each

Lodging: \$129.00 per night for 2 nights.

Transportation: Mileage to be paid at completion of trip.

Meals and Incidental Expenses will follow the GSA Rate of \$64.00 for the Syracuse Area.

Estimated Cost: \$875 not including mileage.

Courses that are being covered are New York State Fire Commissioner Training and Fire Chiefs and Fire District Commissioners: Who's Really in Charge.

All in Favor: 5, Opposed: None, Absent: None.

### **Building & Grounds / Quartermaster / IT:**

#### **Governance Committee Update:**

- Services to support fire district operations continue to be reviewed. IT programs in progress. Requests for laptops for Finance, Fleet, Training and Quartermaster have been processed.
- Security fences at the training site will be reviewed and quotes for repair will be obtained.
- Work on the Station 1 Roof is near completion. 20-year warranty is in place.
- PO issued for the new emergency generator for Station 3. This will include the fully automated transfer switch, mounting pad and ground work to prepare, removal of old electrical panels, upgrade of electrical panels, removal of old transfer switch, new siren controller and relay if necessary.

### **Fleet Management:**

#### **Governance Committee Update:**

- Brush Truck 1 & 3 planning in progress. Rescue 2, M2 and M3 planning, and committees being formed. Fleet maintenance and inspection on track.
- Fleet strategy continues to be reviewed. Meeting held with the Fire Chiefs on the Fleet Strategy. All Chiefs agreed on the current Brush 1 and Brush 3 plan and timeline.

### **Chief's Report**

Chief Paffie gave his report.

- The Fire Department responded to approximately 66 fire calls this month, 31 being at Binghamton University. There was no mutual aid given or received for the month.
- On April 13<sup>th</sup>, the department held a Recruitment Day at all 4 stations that was probably saw on TV. He wanted to thank Commissioner Messina and Commissioner Miller for coming around to the stations. Chief Paffie assisted Commissioner Messina around to the stations, talked to the folks that were attending, got some good information and had a nice lunch at Station 3. Food was pretty good.
- There are 2 prospective members coming in from this, which is unusual. Normally, they don't get anyone. So, it was a good turnout. It's a good thing and better than none. There were approximately 8 total visitors through the 4 stations.

- As Governance Committee Chairman T. McCartney spoke about the foam, there's no foams on the foam mitigation. There were 4 totes received that were ordered through Asst. C. Paffie. Most of the foam has been off loaded. Asst. C. Paffie is still in the process of off loading the foam off of New Engine 1, Foam 4, Old Engine 3 and Old Engine 2. Most of the foam has been transported up to Station 4. They also got rid of 60 pals that were given back to Broome County from what Broome County supplied to them. Broome County is disposing of them and taking care of it. It was a way for them to get rid of some and not have to worry about it. Asst. C. Paffie had taken them over to the Aswad facility.
- Several members going through IFO, BEFO, Pump Operators and Fire Officer Training through NYS Fire.
- Commissioner M. Sexton requests in advance to be notified of various events happening within the Fire Department to be able to add to the Town's announcements for future meetings to be informative to the public. Now that Town Board Meetings are being recorded, people are actually watching the videos and if they aren't, the meeting minutes are very detailed. They will be glad to help advertise. Chief Paffie responds it only happens once a year and it's normally in the April time frame but yes, they will definitely advise in the future. That's not a problem.
- Governance Committee Chairman T. McCartney asked if the 4 totes of foam were received yet. Asst. C. Paffie responds and states that the foam is down at Buckeye. A representative from Buckeye has not returned Assistant Fire Chief Paffie's call and he has not followed up with them. Governance Committee Chairman T. McCartney explains the donation of (4) 275-gallon totes plus the additional purchase of (4) totes will be enough to manage a fire if one occurs so we can proceed with the disposal of the old Foam.

**Old Business:**

No Old Business

**New Business:**

**Resolution 78F-2024:** Motion by Commissioner Donnelly, seconded by Commissioner Miller to approve the voucher to Greene County Commercial Bank for 2020 Serial Bond Payment in the amount \$48,792.50.

All in Favor: 5, Opposed: None, Absent: None.

Discussion on the Sale of Old Station 4 Property.

-Governance Committee Chairman, T. McCartney expresses Mike Petcosky, member of Governance Committee in charge of Buildings & Grounds, will handling the process of selling the Old Station 4 Property. They would like to try and sell the property on their own without having to use a broker. They would like to add a sign to the building that states the building is for sale and there will be a contact number provided. This will require a mandatory referendum, a vote from the public, to sell. Currently, there are no offers. They think that it may be worth a decent value. They would like to get as much as they can for it but they would like to get the process rolling and get it advertised that the

building will be going up for sale. As of right now, the Old Station 4 building is being used to house old foam until the foam mitigation is done and also has Old Engine 3 inside until it is sold.

-Fire District Secretary, Sue Bowen explains the selling of the Old Engine 3 will be advertised once the Fire District Training Classes are done in the next couple of weeks. She has some information on it so now she just needs to build the spec sheet and send it to Dave Foland to get it out on social media.

-Governance Committee Chairman, T. McCartney does not believe the station is going to sell in 2 weeks. There have been some things going on with the building but would like to get the wheels turning but can't do anything without the BOFC permission. They will be able to move forward and get a sign on the building and start the process and then when there is a potential buyer, there will be a resolution to sell and ask the public permission.

-Chairwoman M. Sexton asked if it was something that would need a vote. S. Bowen states they can vote on it. M Sexton states it will then be on record that the BOFC are approving to move forward with selling the Old Station 4 Property.

**Resolution 79F-2024:** Motioned by Commissioner Miller, seconded by Commissioner Greene to move forward with the work beginning to sell the Old Station 4 Property.

All in favor: 5, Opposed: None, Absent: None.

-Dave Harrington, Vice Chairman of the Governance Committee expressed there should be no hurry in selling said property, even if they had to turn everything off in the building and let it sit. But, any value that is received from the sale will go against all of the other financial plans. So, he suggests that it should wait and get the best amount.

### **Public Comments:**

-Asst. C. Paffie states that "BAUER" is spelled incorrectly on the agenda. Proper spelling was corrected according to these minutes.

### **Commissioners Comments:**

-Commissioner Miller questions Bauer. He says obviously this is a business that has been dealt with before. He wanted to make sure that this company wasn't going away anytime soon.

-Governance Committee Chairman, T. McCartney states this is a company that the Fire Department uses for their breathing air equipment for probably 45 years. It is a well-established company. They are probably the premier breathing air company nationwide or probably worldwide. The current air compressor is a Bauer and all of the current systems are Bauer. They will be moving forward with the purchase of another air compressor so if a bid is put out for air compressors, there might be 4 or 5 different companies that might have to accept a low bid for a company that is not standard to what is being used now, it will require all new training. It may require new fittings. Because of working on one thing for so long, there must be a process of creating a resolution to standardize.

-Commissioner Messina would like to say thank you to the firemen for all of the work with recruitment day. It was really nice and everyone seemed very happy with what they were doing.

-Governance Committee Chairman, T. McCartney added there's a lot of spirit and pride for the work that the firemen do. The comments from the Board are very much appreciated because it does get back to them. They recognize it.

-Commissioner Greene asks a question about the May 8<sup>th</sup> Public Hearing. He was wondering how the Public Hearing as going to be held at the same time as the Town Board Meeting.

-Chairwoman M. Sexton states the Public Hearing will be in the regular board meeting.

-Governance Committee Chairman, T. McCartney explains during the board meeting, the Fire District will be separating from the Town of Vestal. It's not going be during a fire district meeting, it will be held during the town board meeting.

-Governance Committee Chairman, T. McCartney states there is a meeting with Commissioner Messina and Chairwoman M. Sexton on May 1<sup>st</sup>. He would like to present a presentation that has been prepared to share with the public. The topic will be "Why form a fire district?" They will be reviewing everything and making sure it will meet all requirements needed. It will be directly from the New York State Association of Fire Districts.

### **Announcements**

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

Reference: DEC Reminds New Yorkers: Annual Residential Brush Burning Prohibition Starts March 16 – NYSDEC website: [dec.ny.gov](http://dec.ny.gov)

This information is posted on the Fire Department website: [vestalfire.com](http://vestalfire.com).

Next meeting of the Fire District will be May 22, 2024 at 5pm

-Governance Committee Chairman T. McCartney advised he will not be attending the next meeting due to being out of town. He suggests that Vice Chairman Dave Harrington will be running the meeting in his absence.

Motion by Commissioner Messina, seconded by Commissioner Greene to adjourn the meeting.  
All in Favor: 5, Opposed: None. Absent: None.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:34pm.

Respectfully Submitted

Susan Bowen  
Fire District Secretary