



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

Date: May 22, 2024

Present:

Commissioner Maria Sexton
Commissioner Sue Messina
Commissioner Stephen Donnelly
Commissioner Robert Greene Jr.
Commissioner Glen Miller (Arrived at 5:07pm)

Others Present: Susan Bowen, Fire District Secretary
Paige Willes, Director of Purchasing
John Paffie, Fire Chief
Charles Paffie, Assistant Fire Chief
Daniel Kirchheimer, Dept. President
Marisa Butler, Fire District Financial Consultant
1 member from the public

Governance Committee:

Vice Chairman: Dave Harrington
Member: Mark Tompko
Member: Mike Petcosky
Member: Ron Birdsall

The meeting was called to order at 5:01pm by Chairwoman Maria Sexton.

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

Chairwoman M. Sexton defers to Vice Chairman Dave Harrington to convene the meeting in Chairman Thomas McCartney's absence.

Motion by Commissioner Messina, seconded by Commissioner Greene to Approval of Minutes of the Fire District Meeting of April 24, 2024 All in Favor: 4, Opposed: None, Absent: 1

Correspondence:

None

Treasurer's Report:

Received Warrants 2024-17F (04/26/2024), Warrant 2024-19F (05/10/2024) and Warrant 2024-20F (05/17/2024)

Resolution 80F-2024: Presented the Abstract of Vouchers that were paid on 05/10/2024, 05/17/2024, and to be paid on 05/24/2024

Motion by Commissioner Donnelly, seconded by Commissioner Messina to approve Vouchers for payment. All in Favor: 4, Opposed: None, Absent: 1.

Resolution 81F-2024: Motioned by Commissioner Messina, seconded by Commissioner Greene to approve the following receipt of checks:

McNeil and Company in the amount of \$11,148.00 to repairs Station 1 roof.

All in Favor: 4, Opposed: None, Absent: 1.

Monthly Treasurer's Report: Awaiting November 2023 to December 2023 Income Reports. Received January 2024 to April 2024 Expense Reports. Awaiting January 2024 to April 2024 Income Reports.

Motion by Commissioner Donnelly, seconded by Commissioner Greene to approve January 2024 to April 2024 Expense Report. All in Favor: 4, Opposed: None, Absent: 1.

Resolution 82F-2024: Motioned by Commissioner Messina, seconded by Commissioner Donnelly to approve payment for time spent on financial matters for the Fire District to Marisa Butler, CPA consultant for the Vestal Fire District, beginning May 31st for every two weeks until the New Fire District has been established. All in Favor: 4, Opposed: None, Absent: 1.

Bid Openings

No Bids were received on May 22nd at 1pm in the Fire District Office for AFFF Foam Mitigation Bid Specification requests were received by:

1) Deltek, Inc, 2291 Wood Oak, Dr., Herdon, VA 20171

-Commissioner Messina questions if no bids were received, what happens now.

-Vice Chairman D. Harrington refers to Asst. Chief. Paffie to explain.

-Asst. Chief Paffie explains he has been working with Buckeye's vendor which is Waste Management. The received bid was less then other quotes.

-Fire District Secretary, Sue Bowen mentions more information is stated further into the agenda.

Secretary Report:

Publication for the Permissive Referendum to use funds from the Capital Equipment Reserve Fund will end on May 31st.

The Fire Advisory Board Officers of Company 1, 2 and 3 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 1, Company 2 and Company 3 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 83F-2024: Motioned by Commissioner Donnelly, seconded by Commissioner Greene to approve Donald Robinson Jr. – Co 1, Syreeta Foland – Co 2, Josue Pacheco – Co 2 and Chad Gerdus – Co 3 to join the Vestal Fire Department.

All in Favor: 4, Opposed: None, Absent: 1.

Resolution 84F-2024: Motioned by Commissioner Greene, seconded by Commissioner Donnelly to approve Station 2 fundraiser with Ice Cream Rescue of Firehouse Concessions at the Station 2 on Route 26 South the week of June 3rd to June 8th.

All in Favor: 4, Opposed: None, Absent: 1.

-Commissioner Donnelly asks if they have their permits to be able to sell.

-Fire Chief Paffie explains if Firehouse Concessions is the same vendor as Firehouse Subs, then yes. They have their permits because Firehouse Subs holds a fundraiser all the time for the department. The donuts, subs, and ice cream are all one in the same.

Resolution 85F-2024: Motioned by Commissioner Messina, seconded by Commissioner Greene to approve Station 2 to send one piece of apparatus and personnel to the Rush Fire Department Parade in Lawton, PA on June 21st with Line up at 6pm, parade start time 7pm.
All in Favor: 4, Opposed: None, Absent: 1.

Management, Oversight & Policy:

Governance Committee Update: The Governance Committee and the fire chiefs met this past Wednesday to go over various topics as we are moving forward to become a fire district. One of the topics was a moratorium on spending. Under the guidance of the Town Comptroller and the fire district's financial consultant, the fire chiefs were advised that spending would temporarily cease on June 1st for a two-month period for the funds to be transfer from the town to the new fire district, once the ok is given.

-Fire Chief Paffie comments and explains that the spending moratorium does not include the day to day operational things like DEF Fluid for the apparatus. He just wanted to make sure everyone was aware of that.

-Fire Chief Paffie mentions that the roof on the Training Tower at the Fred Singer Training Site will be repaired during the spending moratorium.

Finance / Records Management:

Governance Committee Update: None

Resolution 86F-2024: Motion by Commissioner Donnelly, seconded by Commissioner Greene to approve the purchase of a Bauer Legacy Compressor System with all associated accessories plus Freight, Installation, Training and Air Quality Test on Start Up in that amount of \$72,650.90. Bauer Equipment is on NPP.GOV.
All in Favor: 5, Opposed: None, Absent: None.

Resolution 87F- 2024: Motion by Commissioner Messina, seconded by Commissioner Donnelly to approve Waste Management, a contractor through Buckeye, for Foam Mitigation of PFAS containing Firefighting Foam in the amount of \$24,517.50.
All in Favor: 5, Opposed: None, Absent: None.

-Asst. Fire Chief Paffie wanted to comment and say that the amount is less than half of what the other quotes came in as. He received quotes from August and December in 2023 that were over \$40,000.

Resolution 88F-2024: Motion by Commissioner Miller, seconded by Commissioner Greene to approve payment to Weathermaster Roofing Co., Inc in the amount \$142,090.88 for the Emergency Roof Replacement at Station #1. Weathermaster supplied the Fire District all warranty paperwork on 5/21.

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

Resolution 89F-2024: Motion by Commissioner Donnelly, seconded by Commissioner Miller to approve the use of Unallocated Unrestricted General Fund Balance in the amount of \$950.00 to Cover the expense of (1) one new laptop for Fire Chief.

<u>From Line Item</u>	<u>To Line Item</u>	<u>Amount Requested</u>	<u>Explanation</u>
Unallocated Fund Balance	F3410 2220	\$950.00	Purchase Laptop

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

Resolution 90F-2024: Motion by Commissioner Donnelly, seconded by Commissioner Miller to approve the purchase of (1) one Laptop computer for Fire Chief at \$950 per Laptop.

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

Resolution 91F-2024: Motion by Commissioner Donnelly, seconded by Commissioner Greene to approve the purchase of two (2) Sensit Gold G2 Gas Meter LEL, CO on the amount \$1795.50 each for Station #1 and Station #3. The item are in both station's 2024 budget.

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

Training / Safety:

Governance Committee Update: None

Resolution 92F-2024: Motion by Commissioner Messina, seconded by Commissioner Miller to approve Lt Stephen Gallo to attend online training through the NYS State Comptroller's Office, Introduction to Governmental Accounting on May 29th and May 30th at the cost of \$85,

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

Resolution 93F-2024: Motion by Commissioner Donnelly, seconded by Commissioner Messina to approve Lt Stephen Gallo and Treasurer Marisa Butler to attend online training through the NYS State Comptroller's Office, Accounting Principles and Procedures on June 12th and June 13th at the cost of \$85 each.

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

Building & Grounds / Quartermaster / IT:

Governance Committee Update: None

Fleet Management:

Governance Committee Update: None

Resolution 94F-2024: Motion by Commissioner Donnelly, seconded by Commissioner Miller to approve the advertisement for sealed bids on May 29th to purchase two (2) new Brush Trucks. Bids to be open on June 26th at 2pm in the Fire District Office. These vehicles are replacing the current 2005 Brush 32-1 and 2005 Utility 32-3 vehicles as per the 5-year Capital Plan. Publication will be in the Press & Sun-Bulletin Paper and Online.

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

Chief's Report

-Fire Chief Paffie gave his report.

-The Fire Department responded to approximately 60 fire alarms this month, 45 being at Binghamton University.

- Asst. Chief Paffie has been in contact with Environmental Health and Safety, Dave Hubney at Binghamton University in regards to certain alarms where the Vestal Fire Department has responded numerous times so they are trying to work on that and prevent that from happening in the future. That is a work in progress. Hopefully things will be figured out come next semester.

-Commissioner Messina states it seems like some of those alarms are in the maintenance building.

-Fire Chief Paffie responds and states the heating plant, which the fire department responded there twice today. He states the calls seem to be repetitive and that is what Asst. Chief Paffie is working on to try and get the alarm company up there and figure out what is going wrong.

-Fire Chief Paffie requests approval for the Fire Police to assist with the Vestal 20K Race. This is an annual race that the fire police would normally help out with. See **Resolution 97F-2024** for further details.

-Fire Chief Paffie requests for approval to send anybody who requests to attend the NYSAFC Chief Show in Syracuse. There is one Chief requesting to attend with a few personnel with the Chief 32-1 vehicle. Upon further discussion, open end 3 Chiefs vehicles and the Training Vehicle to attend with requesting personnel. See **Resolution 98F-2024** for further details.

-Fire Chief Paffie wanted to add a note for the record to recognize Asst. Chief Paffie for all of the time and effort he has put in for the foam mitigation. It is very much appreciated by the department and wanted to be acknowledged by the Town Board as well.

Old Business:

None.

New Business:

Resolution 95F-2024: Motion by Commissioner Donnelly, seconded by Commissioner Greene to approve for Engine 32-1 and Rescue 32-1 to go to Gary's U Pull It for vehicle extrication class on June 16th from 8am to 4pm. The classroom portion of this class is being held in Vestal while the

hands-on portion would be held at Gary's U Pull It on Colesville Road in Binghamton, New York.
All in Favor: 5, Opposed: None, Absent: None.

-Commissioner Messina questioned the location of Gary's U Pull It.

-Fire Chief Paffie explains the reason for using this location is because they can't get vehicles dropped off into the Town anymore. It's very difficult to get cars to burn and to be used for extrication training. When in contact with Gary's U Pull It, the department will be able to take all the apparatus wanted and needed up there and cut any cars needed. There will no worry about getting towed away. It's a wide-open facility.

Resolution 96F-2024: Motion by Commissioner Donnelly, seconded by Commissioner Miller to approve Firefighter Steven McGraw to attend NYS OFPC Outreach Course, Basic Passenger Vehicle Rescue at Vestal Fire Dept Station 3 June 10th – 15th.

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

Resolution 97F-2024: Motioned by Commissioner Messina, seconded by Commissioner Donnelly to approve the Vestal Fire Police to have traffic control at the intersection of West Hill and Glenwood Rd for the Vestal 20k Race beginning at 8am-10am on Saturday, June 15, 2024.

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

-Fire Chief Paffie explained in his report that the Vestal Fire Department help out every year and shut down roads with the Police Department for the race and any other assistance they may need.

Resolution 98F-2024: Motioned by Commissioner Messina, seconded by Commissioner Donnelly to approve 3 Chief's Vehicles and the Training Vehicle and any requesting personnel to attend the New York State Association of Fire Chiefs 118th Annual Conference and Fire 2024 Expo from June 12, 2024 starting at 8:00am to June 15, 2024 ending at 1:00pm at the Oncenter in Syracuse, New York.

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

-Vice Chairman D. Harrington suggests only sending 3 Chiefs Vehicles and the Training Vehicle leaving 2 Chiefs Vehicles to stay in town to respond to any calls.

Public Comments:

-Fire Chief Paffie wanted to make a statement regarding the number of calls for the month. He knows Station 4 had 75 alarms. *77 fire calls department wide according to the Red NMX System.

Commissioners Comments:

-Commissioner Messina wanted to say that she's very appreciative in all the hard work that the Governance Committee has done and the transfer to the separation and it's just an incredible amount of work especially all of the work done with Buckeye information, she doesn't know where they spend the time finding certain things but the Board appreciates that.

-Commissioner Donnelly wanted to follow Commissioner Messina's comments in stating that the Board appreciates what the Department does. He knows it's been a lot of work and it continues to be a lot of work to continue, but they definitely appreciate all of the hard work and effort and certainly appreciate their services as always. With the foam, it's great saving that amount of money to dispose of it.

-Commissioner Greene stated it was amazing that videos were captured on Monday night at Station 2 for training to be able to put out to the public.

-Commissioner M. Sexton really wanted to thank everyone not only for the work that's being done with the separation, which is a tremendous amount of work but also for what the Department and members of the Governance Committee do every day. Also, for figuring out all of the stuff that was not there and fixing everything so that a successful separation can happen. She really appreciates it, and she knows the residents of Vestal appreciate it as well.

-Fire Chief Paffie wanted to add it's been a pleasure working with the Governance Committee. The amount of communication that they've had between the Governance Committee and the 5 Chief's has been tremendous. So, he believes they will get to the finish line.

-Commissioner Messina welcomed Marisa Butler, the Fire District Financial Consultant to our team.

Announcements

-Vice Chairman D. Harrington expressed that the Fire District Personnel (Town Board/ GC and Fire District Staff) are working through some legal items to clear up before continuing moving forward with the separation process between the Town and Fire District. They wanted to do their due diligence and although some things came to light, the District Attorney, Town Attorney, and other officials are working through them. It is important to make sure everyone understands and can check the box list before moving forward. It is believed to be a good reason to slow things down just a little to double check everything.

-Commissioner M. Sexton adds that the Town Board are 100% just trying to help and assist in whatever efforts and whatever way they can. She appreciates all of the time and effort.

-Vice Chairman D. Harrington wanted to reciprocate with stating that the Governance Committee and the Chiefs are very appreciative that the current Town Board/Board of Fire Commissioners are working with them in a very transparent and open way and that they are all working towards the same goal. It's great to have everybody asking questions and wanting to get to the same finish line. So, he thanks the Town Board.

-Commissioner Miller spoke on what the Department does is phenomenal. He knows the Town appreciates it and the Board appreciates it. Anything they can do to help and get what is needed to continue doing a fantastic job, the Board is all for it.

Next meeting of the Fire District will be June 26, 2024 at 5pm

Motion by Commissioner Donnelly, seconded by Commissioner Messina to adjourn the meeting at 5:25pm.

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