



VESTAL FIRE DISTRICT BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONER REGULAR MEETING

Date: September 13, 2023

The meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners of the Vestal Fire District was called to order at 5:33pm.

Present: Commissioners

J. Schaffer, Chairman
S. Donnelly
J. Fletcher
S. Messina
P. Fitzgerald

Others Present:

S. Bowen, Fire District Secretary
P. Willes, Director of Purchasing
J. Farley, Treasurer/Deputy Town Comptroller
N. Angeline, Deputy Treasurer/Comptroller
J. Paffie, Fire Chief
C. Paffie, Asst Fire Chief ST4

Motion by S. Messina, seconded by S. Donnelly to approve of Minutes of the August 23, 2023 Meeting. All ayes. Carried.

Correspondence:

- Warrant 2023-34F

Bid Openings

None

Resolutions

None

Chief's Report

J. Paffie:

- 1) Equipment
- 2) Apparatus: There is no expected date for Engines 2 & 3 to be finished. They are looking a possible November completion date.
- 3) Radio Communications
- 4) Stations
- 5) Training: Firefighter training is being held at an acquired structure located on Main St. for the month of September & October. Broome County Swat Team will be using the training site on September 22, 2023 for training. When the fire department is done with the acquired structure, they are allowing the swat team to use the building for training
- 6) Special Events: The 9/11 service memorial was a success.
- 7) Miscellaneous

Treasurer's Report:

Presented Vouchers to be paid.

Motion by S, Messina, seconded by J. Fletcher to approve vouchers for payment. All ayes. Carried.

Budget & Finance:

- 1) **Motion to approve** the purchase of Paint and Paint Supplies in the amount not exceeding \$760 for the maintenance at the Fred Singer Training Site.
 - NYSEG donating man hours & \$1000 check to Fred Singer Training Site. NYEG will be at the training site September 14, 2023 & September 15, 2023.
- 2) **Motion to approve** the purchase of (13) Majestic Structural Firefighting Gloves at \$106 per glove plus shipping for a total estimated cost of \$1500.
- 3) **Motion to approve** the following budget transfers for purchases and services
 - F3410 4030 to F3410 4615 \$450.00
To cover the purchase of Essentials of Firefighting 7th Edition for NYS BEFO Classes
 - F3410 2220 to F3410 4441 \$1200.00
To cover the increased cost for maintenance on the Alpine Software
 - Chief Paffie inquired about the P25 Radios for the Chief's vehicles if they were being purchased this year from budget. Funds are being used from Chief's vehicle project with further budget transfers at a future date. The okay with given by N. Angeline & J. Farley to proceed with the purchase.

Motioned by P. Fitzgerald, seconded by S. Donnelly to approve Budget & Finance 1, 2, & 3. All ayes. Carried.

Personnel:

- 1) Motioned by S. Donnelly, seconded by J. Fletcher to approve Blaise Franzese-Moore to become members of the Vestal Fire Department, Inc.at Station 2. All ayes. Carried.
- 2) Motioned by J. Schaffer, seconded by P. Fitzgerald to approve the resignation of Matthew Howard of Station 4. All ayes. Carried.

Old Business:

- 1) Cost Breakdown between the Town Crier and Press-Sun Bulletin with publication dates
 - Town Crier: \$0.42 per line with Proof of affidavit at a cost of \$25
 - Posting every Friday must have notices in the Friday before.

Press-Sun Bulletin: First insertion is priced at \$.405 per line, subsequent insertions are priced at \$.315 per line with Proof of affidavit at a cost of \$35

Newspaper Name	Publication Day/ Frequency	Legal (Liners) Deadline
Binghamton Press & Sun-Bulletin	Monday	Wed 2 PM
Binghamton Press & Sun-Bulletin	Tuesday	Thurs 10 AM
Binghamton Press & Sun-Bulletin	Wednesday	Fri 10 AM
Binghamton Press & Sun-Bulletin	Thursday	Mon 10 AM
Binghamton Press & Sun-Bulletin	Friday	Tues 10 AM
Binghamton Press & Sun-Bulletin	Saturday	N/A
Binghamton Press & Sun-Bulletin	Sunday	Wed 2 PM

Discussed the cost between the two publishers, but decided to move from Town Crier to the Press-Sun Bulletin due to publication frequency.

Motioned by S. Donnelly, seconded by P. Fitzgerald to approve the Press-Sun Bulletin publication to be used for the Fire District effective immediately. All ayes. Carried.

New Business:

- 1) Discussion on the upcoming Public Hearing on the 2024 Vestal Fire District Budget which is to be held on any day in the third week of October (16th through 20th).

Chairman J. Schaffer would like to thank Chief J. Paffie and Asst Chief C. Paffie on their hard work to their budget along with the Finance Department. Budget meeting was held last week and the Consensus went well on the work the was done in the meeting.

Motioned by P. Fitzgerald, seconded by S. Donnelly to advertise the 2024 Vestal Fire District Budget Public Hearing on October 18, 2023 at 5pm in the Vestal Town Hall Board Room. All ayes. Carried.

- 2) Motioned by p. Fitzgerald, seconded by J. Fletcher to approve publication of the upcoming Fire District Meetings for the rest of 2023 on the following Wednesdays:

September 27th
October 11th and 25th
November 15th
December 6th and 13th

Public Comments:

- Asst Chief Paffie explained that George Allen was visiting the new Station 4 site taking pictures of the progress for the opening. Due to concrete curbs and sidewalks being put down, C. Paffie advised him there would be no in or out traffic access to the site due to the construction.
- Asst Chief Paffie noted that the majority of the completion of Station 4 should be done by September 22, 2023. They will start working on punch list items after that. The training on the equipment will start in early October.
- Asst Chief Paffie asked about purchases of a hose washer & a hose dryer. He requested a new hose washer due to the hydrant not being at the new station like at the old station for the hose to be washed. The dryer that is located at the old Station 4 was intended to be moved to the new station, but he has noticed that the dryer was completely rusted out of the bottom. Therefore, he suggested it should be replaced with a new one.
- Asst Chief Paffie is looking into finding a moving company to move the bigger equipment to the new station instead of fire personnel attempting to move it in risk of it being damaged.
- Asst Chief Paffie informed everyone that the Station 4 new Office Furniture should be arriving the 3rd week of October.

Commissioners Comments:

- Chairman Schaffer asked commissioners if they had any comments. S. Donnelly, J. Fletcher & P. Fitzgerald all said no. S. Messina nice job to everyone.

Future Meeting Dates:

Fire District Meeting: Wednesday, September 27, 2023 at the conclusion of the Town Board Meeting

Motioned by P. Fitzgerald, seconded by S. Donnelly to go into Budget work session at 5:58pm. All ayes. Carried.

Work Session:

Work session convene at 6:05pm to Review 2024 Fire District Budget. Commissioners were all given a copy of the Budget with a breakdown of Fire Chief's Request and Fire District Requests. Deputy Treasurer N Angeline went over the Budget worksheets and gave an overview of what the adopted appropriations would be with the proposed tax rate. The appropriations are up 10.02% however there will be no change in the tax rate for 2024.

Chairman J Schaffer do not feel the need to go deeper into the budget as the Fire Department's Budget was reviewed thoroughly and the Fire District has fixed cost that had increased such as Debt Service, Insurances, Wages and other operating expenses. Commissioner J. Fletcher ask if the spending went up 9% how is it that the tax rate did not increase. Deputy Treasurer N Angeline explained that even though there was a spending increase the assessed value of the Fire District also went up which help covered the increased cost in the appropriations leaving the tax rate flat.

It was noted that the Length of Service Awards Program has a minimum increase for 2024 will need to go up to \$100,000 in 2025 due to other obligations in the budget that had increases. The investments increase and decrease over the last few years. There will be 3 members start colleting in 2024 and 4 members in 2025. At the 2023 end of 2023 there will be 50 members/widows receiving entitlement payments.

Motioned by S. Messina, seconded by J. Fletcher to leave the Budget Work Session return to the Fire District Meeting at 6:28 pm. All ayes. Carried.

Motioned by all commissioners to adopt the Tentative 2024 Vestal Fire District Budget with total appropriations, including the foam district, in the amount of \$2,226,776 and a tax levy of \$2,099,300.

Ayes 5 - Fitzgerald, Messina, Fletcher, Donnelly, Schaffer

Motioned by Chairman J. Schaffer to adjourn the meeting at 6:30pm. All ayes. Carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Paige Willes
Director of Purchasing

Susan Bowen
Fire District Secretary