

# Meeting Minutes 9/14/20

Minutes of the Meeting of the Garrison Fire District Held on the 14th of September 2020

**1. Call to Order.** The meeting of the Commissioners of the Garrison Fire District was called to order by Commissioner Lomonaco, at 7:10 p.m. Commissioners Present: Commissioner Brower, Commissioner Prentice, Commissioner Lomonaco, Commissioner Bohl, and Commissioner Freilich – attended via video conference using Zoom due to COVID restrictions.

A quorum was present.

Other's Present: Secretary, Treasurer, Chief, 1st Assistant Chief, President of Company Board, VP of Company Board

**2. Pledge of Allegiance.** The pledge was led by Commissioner Lomonaco.

### **3. Secretary's Minutes.**

On a motion by Commissioner Prentice, which was seconded by Commissioner Bohl, the Board moved to approve the minutes from the August 24th meeting. The vote was, Yays: 5 – Commissioner Brower, Commissioner Lomonaco, Commissioner Bohl, Commissioner Prentice, and Commissioner Freilich, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0. All present in favor. Motion Carried.

### **4. Treasurer's Report.**

a. There was a discussion of the August Report

On a motion by Commissioner Lomonaco, which was seconded by Commissioner Prentice, the Board moved to accept the Treasurer's report. The vote was, Yays: 5 – Commissioner Brower, Commissioner Prentice, Commissioner Freilich, Commissioner Lomonaco, and Commissioner Bohl, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0. All present in favor. Motion Carried.

### **5. Chief's Report.**

- a. Looking to upgrade all the trucks to LED lights for scene support..
- b. Ladder truck was sent out to have lights installed.
- c. Additional trucks need to go out for service.
- d. Scene airbags are 12 years old. They are made by Hurst so reaching out to Hurst to get recommended life expectancy.

On a motion by Commissioner Bohl, which was seconded by Commissioner Brower, the Board moved to approve the Chief's report as spoken. The vote was, Yays: 4 – Commissioner Brower, Commissioner Prentice, Commissioner Lomonaco, and Commissioner Bohl, Nays: 0, Abstain: 1 – Commissioner Freilich. Motion Carried.

### **6. President/Company Report.**

- a. Company got a bill from EZ Pass – District to pay bill and transfer remainder of the trucks to District Account.
- b. Projected 2020 Budget & 2019 Budget was sent to the District Board. There was a math error that has been corrected and an updated copy is attached to the minutes.

### **7. Correspondence.**

- a. Attorney Butler's letter regarding the lease agreement with the Company was read. A copy will be forwarded to the Company and is attached to the minutes.
- b. Community member Joe Regele's letter was read and a copy is attached to the minutes. Commissioner Lomonaco will be sending a written response from the Board.

### **8. Apparatus.**

- a. Information covered in the Chief's report.

### **9. Building and Grounds.**

- a. Station #2 was painted and the parking lot striped. As well as grounds being cleaned and replacement of dead plantings.
- b. Commissioner Lomonaco expressed her appreciation to Commissioner Brower for all his efforts to get the project completed. The other members of the Board also expressed their appreciation.
- c. Bids were reviewed and P & M painting was selected to paint and repair Station #1 for \$4,900.50.
- d. Commissioner Brower received multiple bids for an exhaust venting system to be installed in the Bays of Station #2. The bid is required to be at prevailing wage. Commissioner Freilich objected to how the process was handled regarding this expenditure. As there wasn't past discussion regarding the urgency and necessity of the expense. Other members of the Board said the system had been discussed before and was listed on the long term plan.

On a motion by Commissioner Brower, which was seconded by Commissioner Lomonaco, the Board moved to pay Clean Air Co no more than \$73,000 for the exhaust venting system in Station #2. The vote was, Yays: 5 – Commissioner Brower, Commissioner Prentice, Commissioner Lomonaco, and Commissioner Bohl, Commissioner Freilich Nays: 0, Abstain: 0. All present in favor. Motion Carried.

On a motion by Commissioner Brower, which was seconded by Commissioner Lomonaco, the Board moved to sign the lease proposed by the Company as approved by the District's Attorney. The vote was, Yays: 4 – Commissioner Brower, Commissioner Prentice, Commissioner

Lomonaco, and Commissioner Bohl, Nays: 1 – Commissioner Freilich, Abstain: 0. Motion Carried.

#### **10. Finance & Insurance.**

a. Renewal of the general Insurance policy. Commissioner Prentice will be completing the questionnaire by the deadline.

#### **11. Community Relations.**

- a. The Putnam County Health Dept is hosting a Flu Clinic at Station #2 on 10/7/20 from 2 to 6 pm.
- b. The Board of Elections will be using Station #2 on 11/3 as a polling place for the election.
- c. The Company has plans in place for traffic flow and sanitizing the building following each event.

#### **12. LOSAP.**

a. District received the August statement of assets \$872,000.

#### **13. Long Term Planning**

a. There will be a meeting set up with the Truck Committee. Recommendations will be presented to the Board after the meeting.

#### **14. Grants.**

- a. The District was awarded a DEC Grant for a Water Flota Pump. Chief getting bids for the pump as model we had approved with the grant is no longer available.
- b. The District was allowed to bill the FEMA Grant for the washer and drier we already had installed.
- c. Commissioner Bohl thanked Commissioner Lomonaco for all her work securing the grants for the District. The other members of the Board also expressed their appreciation.

On a motion by Commissioner Lomonaco, which was seconded by Commissioner Bohl, the Board approved paying the Grant Genie \$1,000 to review and help finalize all the Grant paperwork. The vote was, Yays: 5 – Commissioner Brower, Commissioner Prentice, Commissioner Freilich, Commissioner Lomonaco, and Commissioner Bohl, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0. All present in favor. Motion carried.

#### **15. District Health & Safety.**

- a. Everything is up to date
- b. The Company has a plan in place regarding flow of traffic and sanitizing after the use of Station #2 for the Flu Clinic on 10/7 and the Elections on 11/3.

#### **16. Web.**

a. Commissioner Freilich will contact FISCH Solutions to get the website finalized.

#### **17. Policies & Procedure.**

a. COVID LOSAP points policy to be discussed next meeting

#### **18. Old Business.**

- a. Secretary to speak to Bear Mountain to postpone the Installation Dinner due to continued COVID concerns. Looking at dates in the Fall of 2021.
- b. Vehicle inventory list is nearing completion.

#### **19. New Business.**

- a. 3 New Members to be presented to the Board by the Company at the next meeting.
- b. The next District Meeting will be on Tuesday October 13th – due to the 12th being Columbus Day.
- c. Budget Hearing will be on Tuesday October 20th with a brief Special Meeting immediately following.

#### **20. Budget Workshop**

a. There was a discussion of the 2021 budget

On a motion by Commissioner Lomonaco, which was seconded by Commissioner Brower, the Board moved to approve a proposed budget of \$775,300 of which \$775,150 will be raised by real estate tax which is a decrease of \$21,732 or 2.8% over last year. The vote was, Yays: 3 – Commissioner Brower, Commissioner Lomonaco, and Commissioner Bohl, Nays: 2 – Commissioner Prentice, Commissioner Freilich, Abstain: 0. Motion carried.

On a motion by Commissioner Lomonaco, which was seconded by Commissioner Brower, the Board moved to approve a resolution to move unspent budget funds in the amounts of \$30,000 for Blacktop, \$20,000 for Roof, \$20,000 for Floors, and \$1,000 for wells into the Building Reserve Fund. The vote was, Yays: 4 – Commissioner Brower, Commissioner Prentice, Commissioner Lomonaco, and Commissioner Bohl, Nays: 1 – Commissioner Freilich, Abstain: 0. Motion carried.

#### **21. Public Comments.**

a. Rodney Tudor said as a member of the community he is disappointed regarding the ongoing debate regarding reserves. In his opinion there

isn't enough \$ in the reserves and the District is still looking to cut the budget. The State Comptroller encourages reserve funds and their purpose. The fire tax is very small compared to other expenses.

b. Jim Erickson said if the District wanted to reassure the community they should look into a Polarus Brush Vehicle. With increasing concerns regarding climate change and thick woods in our surrounding areas the vehicle would help to fight brush fires so the property of the community members would be protected.

c. Commissioner Lomonaco expressed that during the Budget process every member of the Board takes very seriously balancing finances for the community & varying opinions of the members of the Board. Firemen needs & what the community can afford are taken into consideration as the Board works for a good future for our community.

**22. Presentation of vouchers.** The Board then reviewed the checks that were to be issued.

On a motion by Commissioner Brower, which was seconded by Commissioner Bohl, the Board approved the payment of vouchers in the amount of \$65,517.42. The vote was, Yays: 5 – Commissioner Brower, Commissioner Prentice, Commissioner Freilich, Commissioner Lomonaco, and Commissioner Bohl, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0. All present in favor. Motion carried.

**23. Meeting Adjournment.** With no further business to conduct, on a motion by Commissioner Brower, which was seconded by Commissioner Bohl, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m. The vote was, Ayes: 5 – Commissioner Brower, Commissioner Prentice, Commissioner Freilich, Commissioner Lomonaco, and Commissioner Bohl, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0. All present in favor, Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Cristin Erickson, Fire District Secretary