

STAMFORD JOINT FIRE DISTRICT

Minutes

April 12, 2023 *

* The regular monthly meeting was not held in the month of March due to a snow storm.

* The April 2023 meeting was moved to Wednesday due to schedule conflicts.

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Stamford Joint Fire District was called to order at 7:20p.m. by Vice Chairman Tim Powell, due to a fire emergency earlier in the District and awaiting Chairman's arrival.

Present were:

Deidra Hill	x	Dusty King	x	Stamford Fire Chief Don VanEtten	x
Lucy Chichester	x	Peter Pioppo	x	1 st Assistant Fire Chief AJ Vamosy	x
Ellen Kennedy	x	Tim Powell	x	2 nd Assistant Fire Chief Joe Hornbeck	x
		Bill Sharick	x	Stamford EMS Chief Ryan Hejnal	#

Joined meeting via Zoom

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Tim opened the public hearing for the referendum Real Property Tax Law.

Kevin Hull with Reynard Insurance was present to review the District's coverages and policies.

- It was noted at this time that the firehouse is still under the Village. Tim noted that he has been trying for the past four years to have the paperwork signed over for the building's ownership to the District.
- It was noted that truck values are up 5% this year.
- Discussion about coverages and the need to increase for apparatus due to the high cost if need to be replaced.
 - 2014 Ford F250 \$69,458 to \$85,000
 - 2018 Chevy Tahoe \$73,500 to \$85,000
 - 2002 Freightliner Pumper/Tanker \$630,000 to \$750,000
 - 2005 HME/EVI Rescue \$787,500 to \$850,000
 - 2009 Int'l Crimson Pumper/Tanker \$787,500 to \$850,000
- A correction to be made for the Argo – typo on the document
- No changes to be made for property, comprehensive, or other coverage areas.
- Dusty asked Kevin if there is a way to access training videos through our insurance.
- Kevin noted that a check is being cut for the member reimbursement to family.

The Minutes from the February meeting were read and approved – 1st motion by Tim, 2nd motion by Dusty – none opposed.

Presentation of Bills

March 2023

<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Adobe	\$ 239.88
AT&T Mobility	\$ 229.38
Bound Tree Medical LLC	\$ 1,236.18
Country Home Security	\$ 101.04
Donny Stone	\$ 360.00
ESO	\$ 868.72
Gerster Triple E Towing & Repair	\$ 135.71
Gerster Triple E Towing & Repair	\$ 952.80
Gerster Triple E Towing & Repair	\$ 20.00

Gerster Triple E Towing & Repair	\$ 20.00
Greenwood Auto	\$ 21.00
Har Rob Fire Apparatus	\$ 2,086.50
Karl W. Reynard	\$ 21,190.19
KJBL Electronics	\$ 1,109.00
Margaretville Telephone	\$ 100.69
Margaretville Telephone	\$ 138.77
Mark Powell	\$ 500.00
Microsoft	\$ 99.00
NYSEG	\$ 925.07
NYSIF	\$ 1,829.44
On Star	\$ 20.00
Paraco Gas Corp	\$ 485.83
The Daily Star	\$ 107.83
USPS	\$ 126.00
WEX Bank	\$ 690.05
Young, Kelsey, Brown & Strippoli	\$ 582.00
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	\$ 34,175.08
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April 2023

Vendor	Amount
AT&T Mobility	\$ 229.38
Delco Creative	\$ 800.00
Donny Stone	\$ 360.00
IBD	\$ 1,625.00
KCS Land Research	\$ 445.00
KJBL Electronics	\$ 2,730.00
Legacy Title Services	\$ 743.00
Legacy Title Services	\$ 200.00
Margaretville Telephone	\$ 99.12
Margaretville Telephone	\$ 138.77
Mark Powell	\$ 500.00
On Star	\$ 20.00
Paraco Gas Corp	\$ 745.25
SFD	\$ 858.97
Sherman Air Service	\$ 275.00
The Daily Star	\$ 98.21
Village of Stamford	\$ 51.00
Village of Stamford	\$ 70.00
WEX Bank	\$ 691.01
Young, Kelsey, Brown & Strippoli	\$ 725.00
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	\$ 11,404.71
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Approval of bills as presented – 1st motion by Dusty, 2nd motion by Bill – none opposed.

Treasurer's Report

Bank account balances as of 3/1/2023:

Checking Account	\$	158,960.31
General Fund Account	\$	36,487.02
Total General Fund Balance	\$	195,447.33
Apparatus Reserve	\$	5,168.06
Apparatus Reserve CD	\$	115,000.00
Repair Reserve	\$	31,793.48

All tax monies have been received from the Towns, with the exception of Jefferson.

Treasurer's Report

Bank account balances as of 4/1/2023:

Checking Account	\$	1,470.80
General Fund Account	\$	181,493.72
Total General Fund Balance	\$	182,964.52
Apparatus Reserve	\$	5,168.28
Apparatus Reserve CD	\$	115,000.00
Repair Reserve	\$	31,794.83

As of April 1st, all tax monies have been received – totaling \$222,675.00

Discussion about bank rates and fees for Bank of Greene County and Wayne Bank. Motion made to move funds to the Bank of Greene County as soon as possible/within next 1-2 months. 1st motion by Peter, 2nd motion by Bill – none opposed.

Privilege of the Floor

No comments at this time.

Reports / Requests from Fire Department Chiefs

Chief VanEtten –

- New members approved at SFD meeting:
 - Dylan Gallup – March meeting
 - Isaiah Hawsey – April meeting
- Purchase:
 - Ten (10) stream lights at \$135 per
 - Ten (10) turnout gear nameplates at \$81.92 per from Fire End & Croker
 - New pagers are here (six 5-channel pagers) – invoice will be coming and Bill has been inventorying - \$455 per
- Approved new members and purchases – 1st motion by Tim, 2nd motion by Dusty – none opposed.
- Change in status – Kelly Austin – change from non-emergency to emergency. Approved – 1st motion by Tim, 2nd motion by Bill – none opposed.
- Approval from District for BEFO class supplies, mileage reimbursements and textbooks. Approved – 1st motion by Tim, 2nd motion by Dusty – none opposed.
- Discussion to order door access fobs – have approximately ten on hand, have more cards that can be issued. Ryan to get prices from Kevin Brown.
- Noted that there have been weekly truck committee meetings (approx. 10 members) to review needs for replacement of 2761. Truck committee would like to attend the fire show in Harrisburg, PA on 5/19-5/20 to gather information and research to build new truck.
 - Approval for hotel rooms (5) at approximately \$180-\$200/night
 - Approval for meals. Tim will check with attorney regarding per diem meal rates and what would apply.
 - Approved – 1st motion by Bill, 2nd motion by Peter – none opposed.

Ryan –

- DEC grant – Ryan noted that Lucy has the paperwork.
- Medical supplies needed - \$168.67 – approved. 1st motion by Peter, 2nd motion by Bill – none opposed.

Old Business

- Various jobs around firehouse – still a work in progress.
- Landing zone at DEC updates – still needs to be striped. Per Tim, not able to get in touch with Dennis Houlihan (phone just rings). Discussion also about public relations photo opportunity of the LZ location.
- Roof project –
 - Tim spoke with Mike from S&L – are in process of getting schedules in place.
 - July/early August to start project.
 - No work will be started until after June 23rd due to O'Connor Grant requirements.
- Discussion on how to get the Village to transfer over the building to SJFD – continues to be in limbo.

New Business

- Deidra – Schoharie County permanent Certificate of Need (CON) letter to support them was requested. At the end of year two – now permanent CON. Ryan recommends sending support letter that was drafted. Approved – 1st motion by Tim, 2nd motion by Dusty – none opposed.
- Department physicals discussion –
 - Jefferson FD uses a company called ACCESS, and Windham FD does as well. No issues reported.
 - Ryan reviewed what is offered to Stamford FD by current provider vs what ACCESS offers. Prices for ACCESS are a little higher.
 - Discussion that Ryan was contacted by Bassett that this year's physicals are scheduled for 6/27 at SFD.
 - Discussion to continue with Bassett for this year, need in writing what ACCESS offers for physicals, pricing, etc and compare to Bassett contract, which should be up this year.
- Contract for lawn mowing services at SFD and soliciting for bids, due May 9th. Review of SFD property lines to understand the areas to be maintained. Tim to check with attorney how to advertise for this. Approved – 1st motion by Bill, 2nd motion by Tim – none opposed.
- SFD Annual Installation Dinner – support of \$3,000 from SJFD. Event to be held on July 1st. Approved – 1st motion by Tim, 2nd motion by Peter – none opposed.

Commissioner Reports / Discussion

- Deidra –
 - Noted should be up to date and will need to add new members to the site.
- Dusty –
 - No building issues to note.
- Peter –
 - No truck issues to note.
- Bill –
 - Noted Minitor 6 pagers are in and have been inventoried. Questioned who to issue to? Discussion that Don Scully, Doug Cole, and Dusty showed interest.
 - Noted there are continued issues with current pagers.
 - Discussion to preapprove paying KJBL invoice now – approved. 1st motion by Dusty, 2nd motion by Peter – none opposed.
 - Hi-band radios are being given out and then swapped out to get recharged. These are the ones that were ordered for the ARGO.
 - Discussion about BEFO rope and webbing needs.
 - Will be starting up 911 sign project again – finish Town of Jefferson, and work on Town of Stamford + re-do Town of Gilboa. Town of Kortright and Stamford Village still need to be done.
 - Noted that still need to have discussion about 911 signs in the Village – Bill and Chief VanEtten to schedule a date to meet with Jim Kopp.
- Tim –
 - Lowe's line of credit – no updates.

Other Business

- Dusty asked about status of getting a radio for himself – is on order and is part of the DEC Grant.
- Joe – noted about storage areas and that shelving would be helpful and offered to build. Discussion of start with \$350 budget and use the Lowe's LAR account. Purchase reasonably and use discretion.

Discussion also about shelves in the storage shed + stands for the flowers displayed in front of firehouse. Approved – 1st motion by Tim, 2nd motion by Bill – none opposed.

- Reminder for December 2023 – interior list to Kevin + annual claims report to OFPC.

The public hearing was closed and the following resolution was adopted:

STAMFORD JOINT FIRE DISTRICT

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PARTIAL REAL PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION FOR VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS AND VOLUNTEER AMBULANCE SERVICE WORKERS

The Board of Fire Commissioners of Stamford Joint Fire District ("Fire District") at a Meeting held on the 12 day of April 2023, adopted the following resolution by majority vote:

WHEREAS, pursuant to Chapter 670 of the Laws of 2022 effective December 9, 2022, the state Real Property Tax Law was amended by adding a new §466-a authorizing local governments including fire districts, to enact by resolution a ten (10%) percent partial real property tax exemption of the assessed value of the primary residence owned by a qualified enrolled member of an incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department or incorporated volunteer ambulance service that serves the city, town or village where the Fire District is located; and

WHEREAS, the intent of this Resolution is to permit the partial real property tax exemption for qualified enrolled members of said emergency services organizations for real property taxes imposed by the Fire District; and

WHEREAS, on April 12, 2023, after providing the statutorily required notice, a Public Hearing was conducted by the Fire District to solicit input and to hear all persons interested in the partial real property tax exemption of the assessed value of the primary residence owned by a qualified enrolled member of said emergency service organizations that serve the Fire District; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the primary residential real property located in the Fire District that is owned by an enrolled member of a volunteer fire company, volunteer fire department or incorporated voluntary ambulance service that provide services within the city, town or village which is served by the Fire District shall be exempt from taxation and assessments levied by the Fire District to the extent of ten percent (10%) of the assessed value of such property, exclusive of special assessments, subject to the requirements set forth in this herein; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that for purposes of this Resolution the "Authority Having Jurisdiction" shall mean:

- A. In the case of a fire district, the Board of Fire Commissioners of the Fire District;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that such exemption shall not be granted unless:

- A. The applicant resides in the Fire District which is served by the above listed incorporated volunteer fire company, volunteer fire department or incorporated voluntary ambulance service of which the applicant is a qualified enrolled member;
- B. the property is the primary residence of the applicant;
- C. the property is used exclusively for residential purposes; provided, however, that if any portion of such property is not used exclusively for the applicant's residence but is used for other purposes, such portion shall be subject to taxation and the remaining portion only shall be entitled to the exemption provided by this Resolution; and
- D. the applicant has been certified by the authority having jurisdiction for the incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department, or voluntary ambulance service as an enrolled member who has served such incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department, or

- voluntary ambulance service for at least two years; and
- E. the applicant must submit such certification together with the tax exemption application to the local assessor.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that any enrolled member of an incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department or incorporated voluntary ambulance service who accrues more than twenty years of active service, and is so certified by the authority having jurisdiction for the incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department or incorporated voluntary ambulance service, shall be granted the ten percent (10%) exemption authorized by this Resolution for the remainder of his or her life as long as his or her primary residence is located within the Fire District, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the property tax exemption authorized by this Resolution and granted to an enrolled member of an incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department, or incorporated voluntary ambulance service shall, upon application, be continued to such deceased enrolled member's un-remarried spouse if such member is killed in the line of duty, provided that:

- A. Such un-remarried spouse is certified by the authority having jurisdiction for the incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department, or incorporated voluntary ambulance service as an un-remarried spouse of such enrolled member who was killed in the line of duty;
- B. such deceased volunteer had been an enrolled member for at least five (5) years; and
- C. such deceased volunteer had been receiving the exemption prior to his or her death, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the property tax exemption authorized by this Resolution and granted to an enrolled member of an incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department, or incorporated voluntary ambulance service shall, upon application, be continued to such deceased enrolled member's un-remarried spouse, provided that:

- A. Such un-remarried spouse is certified by the authority having jurisdiction for the incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department, or incorporated voluntary ambulance service as an un-remarried spouse of such enrolled member;
- B. such deceased volunteer had been an enrolled member for at least twenty (20) years; and
- C. such deceased volunteer and un-remarried spouse had been receiving the exemption for such property prior to the death of such volunteer, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an application form for such exemption and a certification provided by the appropriate authority having jurisdiction shall be filed with the Assessor for the Town on or before the taxable status date of each year or as otherwise required as prescribed by New York State, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that no applicant who is a volunteer firefighter or volunteer ambulance worker who by reason of such status is receiving any benefit under the provisions of Article 4 of the state Real Property Tax Law on the effective date of this Resolution shall suffer any diminution of such benefit because of the provisions of this Resolution, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution shall take effect immediately.

Motion to adopt the Resolution made by Commissioner Tim Powell
Seconded by Commissioner Bill Sharick.

On the Motion

Commissioner Deidra Hill	<u> X </u> Aye	<u> </u> Nay
Commissioner Tim Powell	<u> X </u> Aye	<u> </u> Nay
Commissioner Bill Sharick	<u> X </u> Aye	<u> </u> Nay
Commissioner Dusty King	<u> X </u> Aye	<u> </u> Nay
Commissioner Peter Pioppo	<u> X </u> Aye	<u> </u> Nay

The Resolution was adopted.
Dated: April 12, 2023

Ellen Kennedy, Secretary
Stamford Joint Fire District

Meeting adjourned at 9:05p.m.

Respectfully,

Ellen Kennedy
District Secretary