

DECEMBER 14th, 2022

REGULAR MEETING
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
Held at 255 Main Street
Eastchester, NY 10709

PRESENT: Chairman Commr. Paul Carlo
Commr. Paul Ranelone
Commr. Anthony Lore
Commr. Brian Keating
Commr. Thomas Roche

IN ATTENDANCE:
Chief Brian Tween
Treasurer Jamie Hedstrom
Secretary Marissa Isang Smith

MOTION by Commr. Carlo and unan. Carried to open the meeting to the public, followed by a salute to the flag.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Jamie Hedstrom shared the following report:

The financials as of November 30, 2022 present a net budget surplus of approximately \$1.4M. However, at this time it is anticipated that a surplus of under \$1M will remain at the end of December 2022, accounting for two additional payrolls, holiday pay, and general monthly operating expenses to still be accrued and/or paid in December.

Budget transfers will be required for those GL accounts where the YTD 2022 expenditures have exceeded or will exceed the amount budgeted for the line item. These transfers will be recommended after the close of the year.

At that time I will also make recommendations on allocations for 2023 expenditures (e.g., tower ladder purchase, future construction, etc.) for the Board's consideration and to the extent possible based on any remaining surplus.

Station 4 Construction

With the most current Vinco bill included in tonight's warrant, we will have fully utilized the permissive referendum for the work being conducted by Vinco at Station 4, and the difference will be paid with general funds as directed by the Board.

Authorized Amount Per Permissive Referendum \$ 745,000.00

8/16/2021 \$ (15,627.50)

11/22/2021 \$ (85,110.50)

1/24/2022 \$ (46,778.00)

2/22/2022 \$ (19,000.00)

4/21/2022 \$ (125,357.25)

6/14/2022 \$ (124,979.30)

8/11/2022 \$ (125,710.79)

8/29/2022 \$ (138,793.63)

12/14/2022 \$ (165,317.79)

Remaining from Permissive Referendum as of 12/14/22 \$ 0

Paid from General Funds 12/14/22 \$ 101,674.76

Project Remainder as of 12/14/22 \$5,800.00

Vinco Original Contract Sum \$ 561,500.00

Change Order #5- Approved May 2022 \$ 133,454.31

CO #1 Removal of Coal Shoot and Garbage Shed \$ 22,842.55

CO #2 Rock Removal at Foundation to Accommodate
Waterproofing \$ 1,092.60

CO #3 Reconnect Circuits Removed in the Slab \$ 48,237.50

CO #4 Dewatering Cost for Excess Water Infiltration \$ 4,240.30

Allowance #3 Electrical \$ 40,000.00

CO #6 \$ 26,200.00

CO #7 \$ 14,907.50

Revised Contract Total \$ 852,474.76

As of September 7, 2022, the Board has authorized a second expenditure from the capital reserve in the amount of \$760,000 for the next phase of the Chester Heights project. The permissive referendum period has expired and the expenditure was not contested.

Other:

Budget Encumbrances- Purchases initiated in 2021 that won't be complete until

2022

Water rescue equipment- purchased June 2022

10,096.38

Turnout gear- purchased June 2022

63,977.40

Bailout system- purchased 4/8/22

50,050.80

VHF Radios (approx)- partially purchased as of June 2022

100,000.00

Total Budget Encumbrances

224,124.58

Treasury Direct Investments

As of December 14, 2022, we have \$5,000,000 invested in 4-week Treasury bills through our Treasury Direct account. The current interest rates have increased to around 3.68%, and interest earnings to date are approximately \$120K.

Other Items

- NYSHIP has released its rates for 2023, and rates have increased an average of 15%, with the largest increases of over 22% for certain Medicare primary plans. Based on these unanticipated increases, a budget appropriation will be necessary for 2023 to accurately reflect the healthcare costs to the District.
- Those retirees paying the District directly (vs. through a pension deduction) have been notified of the rate changes.

MOTION by Commr. Ranellone seconded by Commr. Lore to pay the bills and vouchers as presented. The Board has been supplied with one set of bills and one credit card bill for Board

approval. Chief Tween has reviewed all prior to the meeting, except certiorari claims and those specifically marked as reviewed by the Treasurer. The Treasurer has requested the Board approve the following:

Warrant 1- 12/14/22 - \$772,795.74

Credit Card - 12/18/22- \$4,314.62 **Total** \$778,110.36

- Commr. Lore - Aye
- Commr. Ranellone - Aye
- Commr. Keating - No
- Commr. Roche - No
- Commr. Carlo - Aye

MOTION CARRIED *****

CHIEF REPORT

Chief Tween submitted the following report:

Vehicle maintenance continues through the use of outside vendors. One of our vendors, Ruscon Truck Service has closed. The owner has retired and he is selling the property. One of the mechanics has inquired if the EFD would be interested in hiring a part time mechanic. He would be able to work on apparatus, cars, small power tools, the emergency diesel generators and having an in-house mechanic would lead to less down time for apparatus and vehicles.

2) Tim Dalton's weekly maintenance reports for November were emailed to the Board 12/6/22.

There are two quotes for generator repairs that are needed, one for Chester Heights for fuel injector replacement for \$6,606.62 and one for the Tuckahoe firehouse for fuel filter and fuel filter housing replacement \$1,176.19, both with GenServe.

3) Fire Prevention and Code Enforcement activities continue with numerous plan reviews and inspections. The Fire Prevention reports were emailed to the Board on 12/2/22.

4) Currently two members are out on long term absence.

5) The four probationary firefighters in the Fire Academy continue to do well and are tentatively scheduled to graduate on 1/15/23.

6) Eastchester High School has asked if the District would be interested in sponsoring a WISE program internship in 2023. We have done it in the past, but due to Covid-19, we did not participate in 2021 or 2022. I would recommend that we resume this program as it can be a

feeder program to hiring future firefighters.

7) I request the Board to authorize me to purchase three mobile radios for Car 2103, and a portable radio for the Assistant Chief, spare batteries, a charger, and portable radio microphones from Motorola and ESS Inc. for a total of \$21,306.85.

8) Over the past month the members have participated in many various training evolutions. Thank you to the Officers that organized and conducted the training and to the members that participated in the training.

9) Vinco Builders, LLC has advised there is just some final electrical work to be done and they will have completed their phase of Chester Heights construction project.

10) Retired EFD mechanic John Lucente passed away on 12/13/22. John was hired on 12/9/74 and retired on 11/29/2013, serving more than 38 years with the District. John was also a Volunteer Firefighter as member of the Rescue Hook and Ladder Co. in Tuckahoe since 1973. I request the Board will close the meeting with a moment of silence in honor of John Lucente's service to the District as our mechanic and as a Volunteer Firefighter.

Motion by Commr. Ranellone seconded by Commr. Lore to authorize the Chief to purchase portable radio supplies which includes portable radio batteries, remote speaker microphones, and a multi-unit battery charger from Motorola Solutions at the NYS OGS Contract # PT68722 pricing for \$4,806.97.

- Commr. Lore - Aye
- Commr. Ranellone - Aye
- Commr. Keating - Aye
- Commr. Roche - Aye
- Commr. Carlo - Aye

MOTION CARRIED *****

Motion by Commr. Ranellone seconded by Commr. Lore to authorize Chief Tween to purchase a Motorola APX6500 UHF Mobile radio, a Motorola APX6000XE UHF Portable radio, and a Motorola APX8500 All Band Trunking Mobile radio for Car 2103 from Motorola Solutions at the NYS OGS Contract # PT68722 pricing for \$15,155.31.

- Commr. Lore - Aye
- Commr. Ranellone - Aye
- Commr. Keating - Aye

Commr. Roche - Aye
Commr. Carlo - Aye

MOTION CARRIED *****

Motion by Commr. Carlo seconded by Commr. Ranellone to authorize the Chief to purchase from ESS Inc., a Motorola XPR550e VHF mobile radio at the NYS Contract #PT68715 price of \$1,013.33, also a leather case with strap for a portable radio, and radio programming from ESS Inc. at the Westchester County Contract #5686BPS price \$330.79 for a total cost of \$1,344.57.

Commr. Lore - Aye
Commr. Ranellone - Aye
Commr. Keating - Aye
Commr. Roche - Aye
Commr. Carlo - Aye

MOTION CARRIED *****

Motion by Commr. Ranellone seconded by Commr. Lore to authorize Chief Tween to respond to Eastchester High School Guidance Department that the District will participate in the WISE program for High School seniors in 2023, and to implement that program in 2023.

Commr. Lore - Aye
Commr. Ranellone - Aye
Commr. Keating - Aye
Commr. Roche - Aye
Commr. Carlo - Aye

MOTION CARRIED *****

SECRETARY REPORT

Secretary Isang Smith submitted the following report:

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

- 1) Distributed Civil Service Exam flyers around District.
Received inquiries and overall positive feedback to promote the exam in the community.
 - a) The next stage is to work on free exam preparation materials for those who are interested as well as asking for Board feedback on an event for prospective firefighter candidates.
- 2) Website Metrics:
 - a) 766 Visits

- b) Hiring Process - Top Performing Page
- 3) December Newsletter being drafted

FOIL OFFICER

- 1) 3 FOILs were received and three processed

FIRE DISTRICT ELECTION

- 1) I wish to say thank you to our election location hosts (Bronxville Village Hall, Eastchester Public Library, Leroy Gregory Post, and Tuckahoe Community Center), and to the amazing work of the Election Inspectors and EFD personnel for their assistance on election day.
- 2) The results of the Eastchester Fire District Election are as follows:
 - a) Anthony Cerasi: 373
 - b) Write-Ins: 53Congratulations to Mr. Anthony Cerasi on his election win for Fire Commissioner.

GRANT WRITING

- 1) Initiated LGRMIF research and meetings with NYSA for next grant cycle 2023 - 2024 for records project
- 2) Continued research on grant application options for equipment, staffing, and capital projects.

MISC.

- 1) OML Document for December Meeting
- 2) Meeting Minutes updated and posted to the website
- 3) Updated 2022 resolutions spreadsheet
- 4) Regular office tasks as needed including scheduling, billing, customer service, and staff support.

ASSISTANT CHIEF PROMOTION

Motion by Commr. Carlo seconded by Commr. Ranellone to appoint Captain Bruce Yozzo, badge #124, to the provisional position of Assistant Chief with a start date of January 1, 2023. Pay, compensation and other benefits are laid out in an employment agreement to be executed - but which must be first approved by Legal Counsel as to form. This position is provisional, and under Westchester County Civil Service is a competitive position. The appointed candidate must test and be reachable on

the next Civil Service list to be considered for probationary promotion

- Commr. Lore - Aye
- Commr. Ranellone - Aye
- Commr. Keating - Aye
- Commr. Roche - Aye
- Commr. Carlo - Aye

MOTION CARRIED *****

CAPTAIN PROMOTION

Motion by Commr. Carlo seconded by Commr. Ranelloneto promote Lieutenant Daniel Olivier, badge #181, to the position of contingent permanent Captain with a start date of January 1, 2023, subject to a 52-week term of probation and with a salary and other benefits provided for in the collective bargaining agreement with IAFF Local 916.

- Commr. Lore - Aye
- Commr. Ranellone - Aye
- Commr. Keating - Aye
- Commr. Roche - Aye
- Commr. Carlo - Aye

MOTION CARRIED *****

Medicare Part B Reimbursement

Motion to pay Medicare Part B reimbursements to those qualifying retirees, as required by NYSHIP, in the amount of \$136,385.70.

- Commr. Lore - Aye
- Commr. Ranellone - Aye
- Commr. Keating - Aye
- Commr. Roche - Aye
- Commr. Carlo - Aye

MOTION CARRIED *****

FOIL (VOA/VBA)

Commr. Keating requested item FOIL VOA/VBA. Commr. Keating remarked on how a public member attended the last meeting on November 10. Commr. Roche agreed with the statement by Commr. Keating, believing the volunteer info should be forthcoming on an annual basis. Discussion continued between Commr. Roche and

Commr. Keating regarding foiling the VOA/VBA. Commr. Keating requested a second for his motion though none was provided.

Necessity Study

Chief Tween commented on increasing personnel, sharing a past quote from a consulting group for \$46,000 to conduct a staffing and deployment study. Commr. Keating asked about need for number of personnel increasing. Commr. Carlo shared he didn't believe the District needed a necessity study. Union President Steven Ranellone mentioned reliance on mutual aid.

Commr. Keating commented on absences. A discussion ensued between Commr. Keating, Commr. Roche and Union President Steven Ranellone and their disagreement on the number of absences.

Commr. Lore discussed the closure in the past of a firehouse - 5 blocks away in Bronxville and how a house burned down shortly after. Commr. Keating made motion to do necessity study, Commr. Ranellone seconded it.

- Commr. Lore - No
- Commr. Ranellone - Aye
- Commr. Keating - Aye
- Commr. Roche - No
- Commr. Carlo - No

MOTION CARRIED *****

Discussion took place over transfers for the Spring Academy. Commr. Keating made motion for a transfer, no second provided.

Garth Woods Owners

Motion to accept a donation from Garth Woods Owners Corp, BY Barhite and Holzinger Inc, 77 Pondfield Road, Bronxville, NY in the amount of \$150. The donation was made with no specifications or conditions and will be deposited into the general fund.

Commr. Lore	-	Aye
Commr. Ranellone	-	Aye
Commr. Keating	-	No
Commr. Roche	-	Aye
Commr. Carlo	-	Aye

MOTION CARRIED *****

LOCAL 916

Union President Steven Ranellone thanked Commr. Roche for his service and also shared it was his last meeting before his retirement next year.

PUBLIC COMMENTS WELCOME

Mike Parici thanked Commr. Roche for his service then asked for an update on Chester Heights.

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS - Commr. Roche thanked Mike Parici for his participation and the public.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Commr. Carlo and unanimously carried that this meeting adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

Marissa "Isang" Smith
 SECRETARY TO THE BOARD OF
 FIRE COMMISSIONERS