

EASTCHESTER FIRE DISTRICT
MINUTES OF THE EASTCHESTER BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
DECEMBER 12, 2024

Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Eastchester Board of Fire Commissioners held on Thursday, December 12, 2024 at 7:00 p.m., at Eastchester Town Hall, 40 Mill Road, Eastchester, New York.

Board Members Present:

Chairman Paul Carlo
Commissioner Paul M. Ranellone
Commissioner Anthony J. Lore, Sr.
Commissioner Tony Cerasi

Board Members Absent:

Commissioner Brian E. Keating

In Attendance:

Chief Brian Tween
Secretary Marissa “Isang” Smith

● **CALL TO ORDER**

Action: 1.1 - Meeting called to order

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 PM by Chairman Carlo

● **SALUTE TO THE FLAG**

4 . Treasurer Report

Treasurer Jamie Hedstrom was not in attendance and submitted the following report to the Board:

December 12, 2024

To: Board of Fire Commissioners, Eastchester Fire District
From: Jamie Hedstrom, Treasurer
Subject: Actual vs. Budget Comparison, November 2024

The financials as of November 30, 2024 present a net budget deficit of approximately \$120K. This deficit is predominantly related to an overage in overtime costs for 2024. Budget transfers will be recommended after year end to account for this overtime overage and others, including GL 3416.1 Terminal Leave, GL 3060.2 Fuel and Electric, GL 3030.2 Hoses & Nozzles, etc.

Construction Projects:

Current Balance in Capital Reserve: \$374,608.49

Location	Vendor	Description	Cost	Remainder	Funding
Station 4	Vinco	Apparatus Floor	\$ 852,474.76	\$ 5,800.00	Split- remainder General Fund
Station 3	Highland Associates	Apparatus Floor- Architectural Only TO BE REVISED	TBD (was \$34,500)	TBD (was \$34,500)	General Fund

Other:

Treasury Direct Investments

We currently have \$5M invested in Treasury Direct Investments, in \$2-3M increments. Interest rates have decreased and are currently around 4.4%. We will continue to decrease our investments to cover operating expenses through our next tax collection in May 2025.

NYSHIP

- NYSHIP has released its rates for 2025, and rates are only increasing an average of **2.8%**, with the largest increase to Medicare-1 family plans of approximately 10% and an almost 0% increase to non-Medicare family plans.
- This is a deviation from the prior three years where rates increased in the double digits, with certain 2024 rate increases topping 25%.
- Per NYSHIP, “lower than anticipated costs” in 2024 are the reason for the minimal increase. There is no guarantee that the 2026 increase will be similar.
- Those retirees paying the District directly (vs. through a pension deduction) will be notified of the rate changes later this month.
- Medicare Part B reimbursements will be issued to eligible retirees next week. The 2024 standard Medicare Part B premium is \$174.70/month, or \$2,096.40 per individual for the calendar year.

Eastchester, NY Fire District
Budget vs. Actuals: FY2024 - FY24 P&L
January- November 2024

	Actual	Budget	Total over Budget	% of Budget
Income				
Use of Capital Reserve	188,847.00	188,847.00		
Appropriated Fund Balance	495,163.38	495,163.38		
Budget Encumbrances	1,546,849.08	1,546,849.08	0.00	100.00%
1001 Real Property Taxes	20,866,263.00	20,866,263.00	0.00	100.00%
2401 Interest Earnings	400,625.63		400,625.63	
2705 Miscellaneous Income	7,254.00		7,254.00	
2770 Workers Comp - Reimbursement	28,500.18	17,500.00	11,000.18	162.86%
Total Income	\$ 23,533,502.27	\$ 23,114,622.46	\$ 418,879.81	101.81%
Gross Profit	\$ 23,533,502.27	\$ 23,114,622.46	\$ 418,879.81	101.81%
Expenses				
1110.5 Outside Services	16,580.46	11,000.00	5,580.46	150.73%
1120.5 Fire Prevention	8,547.09	9,000.00	(452.91)	94.97%
1140.5 Payroll Processing Expense	10,323.98	10,083.37	240.61	102.39%
1150.5 Insurance	164,261.82	165,000.00	(738.18)	99.55%
1170.5 Other Miscellaneous Expenses	1,219.72	11,000.00	(9,780.28)	11.09%
1180.5 Education & Travel	2,738.84	4,583.37	(1,844.53)	59.76%
1200.5 Recruitment	0.00	4,583.37	(4,583.37)	0.00%
3010.2 Coats, Boots, Helmets	96,457.94	137,750.00	(41,292.06)	70.02% BE
3020.2 Tank Refills, Testing & Rep	5,189.44	18,333.37	(13,143.93)	28.31%
3030.2 Hoses & Nozzles	81,710.24	60,543.37	21,166.87	134.96% BE
3040.2 Tires	15,237.12	14,666.63	570.49	103.89%
3050.2 Gasoline, Oil, Grease, Etc.	38,320.72	45,833.37	(7,512.65)	83.61%
3060.2 Fuel & Electric	116,108.28	73,333.37	42,774.91	158.33%
3070.2 Telephone	13,343.09	50,416.63	(37,073.54)	26.47%
3090.2 Certiorari	24,972.98	66,916.63	(41,943.65)	37.32%
3105.4 Uniforms	54,737.73	70,000.00	(15,262.27)	78.20%
3110.4 Shop Equipment & Tools	3,236.27	4,583.37	(1,347.10)	70.61%
3115.4 Emergency Equipment	113,727.73	137,500.00	(23,772.27)	82.71%
3120.4 EMS Supplies and Services	14,849.32	18,333.37	(3,484.05)	81.00%
3125.4 Computers, Software & Internet	68,062.56	60,683.37	7,379.19	112.16%
3130.4 Office Supplies	6,924.48	7,333.37	(408.89)	94.42%
3135.4 Postage	993.89	1,375.00	(381.11)	72.28%
3140.4 Subscriptions	245.00	1,100.00	(855.00)	22.27%
3145.4 Association Dues	1,625.00	1,375.00	250.00	118.18%
3150.4 Elections & Referendums	3,296.52	5,000.00	(1,703.48)	65.93%
3155.4 Sewer Tax	12,994.04	14,000.00	(1,005.96)	92.81%
3160.4 Fire Training	36,000.00	36,000.00	0.00	100.00%
3210.3 Vehicle Maintenance	79,605.06	79,166.63	438.43	100.55%
3220.3 Radio Equipment & Maintenance	75,640.72	85,000.00	(9,359.28)	88.99% BE
3230.3 Ladder & Pump Testing	5,416.20	3,666.63	1,749.57	147.72%
3240.3 Bldg/Prop Repairs & Maintenance	171,002.14	144,166.63	26,835.51	118.61%
3410.11 Fire Chief salary	199,200.00	198,000.00	1,200.00	100.61%

3410.12 Assistant Fire Chief salary	176,220.00	160,416.63	15,803.37	109.85%
3410.13 Fire Captains salary	769,272.80	797,500.00	(28,227.20)	96.46%
3410.14 Fire Lieutenants salary	1,190,773.80	1,191,666.63	(892.83)	99.93%
3410.15 Uniformed Firefighters salary	5,397,620.92	5,316,666.63	80,954.29	101.52%
3410.16 Maintenance Workers salary	69,244.80	68,589.62	655.18	100.96%
3410.17 Mechanics salary	42,206.25	45,833.37	(3,627.12)	92.09%
3410.18 Treasurer/Secy/PT Asst salary	158,729.80	161,516.63	(2,786.83)	98.27%
3410.2 Fire Equipment and Capital Outlay	2,201,147.72	2,201,147.72	0.00	100.00% CAP/BE
3410.42 Accountants / Auditors fees	13,500.00	17,500.00	(4,000.00)	77.14%
3410.44 Year-End fees		0.00	0.00	
Total 3410.42 Accountants / Auditors fees	\$ 13,500.00	\$ 17,500.00	\$ (4,000.00)	77.14%
3410.46 Consultants fees	1,500.00		1,500.00	
3410.465 Consultant Fees- Engineers	28,380.85	48,445.87	(20,065.02)	58.58%
3410.47 Professional Consultants fees	7,120.00	36,666.63	(29,546.63)	19.42%
Total 3410.46 Consultants fees	\$ 37,000.85	\$ 85,112.50	\$ (48,111.65)	43.47%
3410.49 Payroll Clearing account	(392.90)		(392.90)	
3410.81 Disabled Firemen salary -207A's	149,692.10	156,750.00	(7,057.90)	95.50%
3411.1 Holiday Pay	249,698.64	280,000.00	(30,301.36)	89.18%
3413.1 Overtime - Firefighters	1,039,475.03	761,062.50	278,412.53	136.58%
3413.12 Overtime- Training	36,976.80	96,965.00	(59,988.20)	38.13%
3413.13 Overtime- Sick Incentive	43,395.58	91,666.63	(48,271.05)	47.34%
3413.14 Overtime- Chiefs	1,928.84	0.00	1,928.84	
3413.2 Overtime - Fire Prevention	42,029.25	36,666.63	5,362.62	114.63%
3414.1 EMT Training	13,343.00	18,333.37	(4,990.37)	72.78%
3416.1 Terminal Leave	367,449.66	307,000.00	60,449.66	119.69%
9010.8 NYS Retirement	3,154,037.00	3,250,000.00	(95,963.00)	97.05%
9020.8 Social Security	743,047.66	714,083.37	28,964.29	104.06%
9030.8 Payroll Tax - MTA	33,279.39	35,587.75	(2,308.36)	93.51%
9040.8 Workers Compensation	225,425.00	235,000.00	(9,575.00)	95.93%
9045.8 Life Insurance - Local 916	42,661.13	43,000.00	(338.87)	99.21%
9050.8 Physician / Medical costs	29,816.00	55,000.00	(25,184.00)	54.21%
9060.81 Hospital	3,344,163.11	3,215,483.37	128,679.74	104.00%
9060.82 Dental	140,000.00	140,000.00	0.00	100.00%
9060.83 Optical Plan - Local 916	51,000.00	50,000.00	1,000.00	102.00%
Total Expenses	\$ 21,203,381.77	\$ 21,082,875.20	\$ 120,506.57	100.57%
Net Operating Income	\$ 2,330,120.50	\$ 2,031,747.26	\$ 298,373.24	114.69%
Net Income	\$ 2,330,120.50	\$ 2,031,747.26	\$ 298,373.24	114.69%

Eastchester, NY Fire District
Budget vs. Actuals: FY2024 Budget - FY24 P&L
 January - December 2024

	Total							
	Actual	Appropriated for 2025	Actual + Appropriated	Budget- with Modifications	Original Budget	Budget Encumbrances from 2024 & Mods	over Budget	% of Budget
Income								
Use of Capital Reserve	188,847.00		188,847.00	188,847.00	0.00	188,847.00	0.00	100.00%
Appropriated Fund Balance	495,163.38		495,163.38	495,163.38	0.00	495,163.38	0.00	100.00%
Budget Encumbrances	1,578,046.62		1,578,046.62	1,623,341.27	0.00	1,623,341.27	(45,294.65)	97.21%
1001 Real Property Taxes	20,866,263.00		20,866,263.00	20,866,263.00	20,866,263.00	0.00	0.00	100.00%
2401 Interest Earnings	400,625.63		400,625.63			0.00	400,625.63	
2680 Insurance Recoveries			0.00			0.00	0.00	
2701 Refund of PY Expenditure			0.00			0.00	0.00	
2705 Miscellaneous Income	7,254.00		7,254.00			0.00	7,254.00	
2770 Workers Comp - Reimb	28,500.18		28,500.18	21,000.00	21,000.00	0.00	7,500.18	135.72%
Total Income	\$ 23,564,699.81	\$ -	\$ 23,564,699.81	\$ 23,194,614.65	\$ 20,887,263.00	\$ 2,307,351.65	\$ 370,085.16	101.60%
Gross Profit	\$ 23,564,699.81	\$ -	\$ 23,564,699.81	\$ 23,194,614.65	\$ 20,887,263.00		\$ 370,085.16	101.60%
Expenses								
1110.4 Archiving Services & Exp	0.00		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
1110.5 Outside Services	16,580.46		16,580.46	12,000.00	12,000.00	0.00	4,580.46	138.17%
1120.5 Fire Prevention	8,547.09		8,547.09	9,000.00	9,000.00	0.00	(452.91)	94.97%
1140.5 Payroll Processing Exp	11,200.62		11,200.62	11,000.00	11,000.00	0.00	200.62	101.82%
1150.5 Insurance	164,261.82		164,261.82	165,000.00	145,000.00	20,000.00	(738.18)	99.55%
1170.5 Other Miscellaneous Expenses	1,219.75		1,219.75	12,000.00	12,000.00	0.00	(10,780.25)	10.16%
1180.5 Education & Travel	2,738.84		2,738.84	5,000.00	5,000.00	0.00	(2,261.16)	54.78%
1200.5 Recruitment	0.00		0.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	0.00	(5,000.00)	0.00%
3010.2 Coats, Boots, Helmets	96,457.94		96,457.94	144,000.00	75,000.00	69,000.00	(47,542.06)	66.98%
3020.2 Tank Refills, Testing & Rep	5,189.44		5,189.44	20,000.00	20,000.00	0.00	(14,810.56)	25.95%
3030.2 Hoses & Nozzles	81,710.24		81,710.24	62,210.00	20,000.00	42,210.00	19,500.24	131.35%
3040.2 Tires	15,237.12		15,237.12	16,000.00	16,000.00	0.00	(762.88)	95.23%
3050.2 Gasoline, Oil, Grease, Etc.	38,320.72		38,320.72	50,000.00	50,000.00	0.00	(11,679.28)	76.64%
3060.2 Fuel & Electric	116,242.08		116,242.08	80,000.00	80,000.00	0.00	36,242.08	145.30%
3070.2 Telephone	13,343.09		13,343.09	55,000.00	55,000.00	0.00	(41,656.91)	24.26%
3090.2 Certiorari	24,972.98		24,972.98	73,000.00	200,000.00	(127,000.00)	(48,027.02)	34.21%
3105.4 Uniforms	54,737.73		54,737.73	75,000.00	75,000.00	0.00	(20,262.27)	72.98%

Eastchester, NY Fire District
Budget vs. Actuals: FY2024 Budget - FY24 P&L
 January - December 2024

	Total							
	Actual	Appropriated for 2025	Actual + Appropriated	Budget- with Modifications	Original Budget	Budget Encumbrances from 2024 & Mods	over Budget	% of Budget
3110.4 Shop Equipment & Tools	4,333.92		4,333.92	5,000.00	5,000.00	0.00	(666.08)	86.68%
3115.4 Emergency Equipment	113,908.83		113,908.83	150,000.00	150,000.00	0.00	(36,091.17)	75.94%
3120.4 EMS Supplies and Services	14,849.32		14,849.32	20,000.00	20,000.00	0.00	(5,150.68)	74.25%
3125.4 Computers, Software & Internet	68,365.33		68,365.33	66,200.00	66,200.00	0.00	2,165.33	103.27%
3130.4 Office Supplies	7,017.60		7,017.60	8,000.00	8,000.00	0.00	(982.40)	87.72%
3135.4 Postage	993.89		993.89	1,500.00	1,500.00	0.00	(506.11)	66.26%
3140.4 Subscriptions	245.00		245.00	1,200.00	1,200.00	0.00	(955.00)	20.42%
3145.4 Association Dues	2,125.00		2,125.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	0.00	625.00	141.67%
3150.4 Elections & Referendums	10,496.52		10,496.52	10,500.00	10,500.00	0.00	(3.48)	99.97%
3155.4 Sewer Tax	12,994.04		12,994.04	14,000.00	14,000.00	0.00	(1,005.96)	92.81%
3160.4 Fire Training	36,000.00		36,000.00	36,000.00	26,000.00	10,000.00	0.00	100.00%
3210.3 Vehicle Maintenance	79,879.26		79,879.26	85,000.00	70,000.00	15,000.00	(5,120.74)	93.98%
3220.3 Radio Equipment & Maintenance	75,640.72		75,640.72	135,294.65	60,000.00	75,294.65	(59,653.93)	55.91%
3230.3 Ladder & Pump Testing	5,416.20		5,416.20	4,000.00	4,000.00	0.00	1,416.20	135.41%
3240.3 Bldg/Prop Repairs & Maintenance	171,021.13		171,021.13	155,000.00	130,000.00	25,000.00	16,021.13	110.34%
3410.11 Fire Chief salary	207,168.00		207,168.00	216,000.00	216,000.00	0.00	(8,832.00)	95.91%
3410.12 Assistant Fire Chief Salary	183,268.80		183,268.80	175,000.00	175,000.00	0.00	8,268.80	104.73%
3410.13 Fire Captains salary	802,544.80		802,544.80	870,000.00	870,000.00	0.00	(67,455.20)	92.25%
3410.14 Fire Lieutenants salary	1,240,245.00		1,240,245.00	1,300,000.00	1,300,000.00	0.00	(59,755.00)	95.40%
3410.15 Uniformed Firefighters salary	5,621,337.72		5,621,337.72	5,800,000.00	5,800,000.00	0.00	(178,662.28)	96.92%
3410.16 Maintenance Workers salary	72,130.00		72,130.00	74,825.00	74,825.00	0.00	(2,695.00)	96.40%
3410.17 Mechanics salary	43,893.75		43,893.75	50,000.00	50,000.00	0.00	(6,106.25)	87.79%
3410.18 Treasurer/Secy/PT Asst salary	165,333.00		165,333.00	176,200.00	176,200.00	0.00	(10,867.00)	93.83%
3410.2 Fire Equipment and Capital Outlay	2,201,147.72	500,000.00	2,701,147.72	2,702,997.00	520,000.00	2,182,997.00	(1,849.28)	81.43%
3410.42 Accountants / Auditors fees	18,000.00		18,000.00	17,500.00	17,500.00	0.00	500.00	102.86%
3410.46 Consultants fees	1,500.00		1,500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,500.00	

Eastchester, NY Fire District
Budget vs. Actuals: FY2024 Budget - FY24 P&L
 January - December 2024

	Total							
	Actual	Appropriated for 2025	Actual + Appropriated	Budget- with Modifications	Original Budget	Budget Encumbrances from 2024 & Mods	over Budget	% of Budget
3410.465 Consultant Fees- Engineers	42,917.19		42,917.19	52,850.00	65,000.00	(12,150.00)	(9,932.81)	81.21%
3410.47 Professional Consultants fees	7,120.00		7,120.00	40,000.00	90,000.00	(50,000.00)	(32,880.00)	17.80%
3410.48 Labor Consultants	3,724.63		3,724.63		0.00	0.00	3,724.63	
Total 3410.46 Consultants fees	\$ 55,261.82	\$ -	\$ 55,261.82	\$ 92,850.00	\$ 155,000.00	\$ (62,150.00)	\$ (37,588.18)	59.52%
3410.49 Payroll Clearing account	11,689.84		11,689.84			0.00	11,689.84	
3410.81 Disabled Firemen salary -207A's	155,910.56		155,910.56	171,000.00	201,000.00	(30,000.00)	(15,089.44)	91.18%
3411.1 Holiday Pay	537,676.68		537,676.68	560,000.00	560,000.00	0.00	(22,323.32)	96.01%
3412.1 Retroactive Salary	0.00		0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00	
3413.1 Overtime - Firefighters	1,107,804.18		1,107,804.18	830,250.00	830,250.00	0.00	277,554.18	133.43%
3413.12 Overtime- Training	36,976.80		36,976.80	96,965.00	96,965.00	0.00	(59,988.20)	38.13%
3413.13 Overtime- Sick Incentive	46,354.18		46,354.18	100,000.00	100,000.00	0.00	(53,645.82)	46.35%
3413.14 Overtime- Chiefs	3,338.60		3,338.60	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,338.60	
3413.2 Overtime - Fire Prevention	43,371.40		43,371.40	40,000.00	40,000.00	0.00	3,371.40	108.43%
3414.1 EMT Training	13,343.00		13,343.00	20,000.00	20,000.00	0.00	(6,657.00)	66.72%
3416.1 Terminal Leave	367,449.66		367,449.66	307,000.00	200,000.00	107,000.00	60,449.66	119.69%
9010.8 NYS Retirement	3,154,037.00		3,154,037.00	3,250,000.00	3,250,000.00	0.00	(95,963.00)	97.05%
9020.8 Social Security	791,655.21		791,655.21	779,000.00	779,000.00	0.00	12,655.21	101.62%
9030.8 Payroll Tax - MTA	35,627.21		35,627.21	38,823.00	38,823.00	0.00	(3,195.79)	91.77%
9040.8 Workers Compensation	225,425.00		225,425.00	235,000.00	255,000.00	(20,000.00)	(9,575.00)	95.93%
9045.8 Life Insurance - Local 916	42,661.13		42,661.13	46,000.00	46,000.00	0.00	(3,338.87)	92.74%
9050.8 Physician / Medical costs	29,816.00		29,816.00	60,000.00	60,000.00	0.00	(30,184.00)	49.69%
9060.81 Hospital	3,472,985.93		3,472,985.93	3,507,800.00	3,507,800.00	0.00	(34,814.07)	99.01%
9060.82 Dental	140,000.00		140,000.00	140,000.00	140,000.00	0.00	0.00	100.00%
9060.83 Optical Plan - Local 916	51,000.00		51,000.00	50,000.00	50,000.00	0.00	1,000.00	102.00%
Total Expenses	\$ 22,131,499.67	\$ 500,000.00	\$ 22,628,161.07	\$ 23,194,614.65	\$ 20,887,263.00	\$ 2,307,351.65		95.42%
Net Operating Income	\$ 1,433,200.14	\$ 500,000.00	\$ 936,538.74	\$ -			\$ 936,538.74	
Net Income			\$ 936,538.74	\$ -				

NOTES:

- **Chief Report**

Chief Tween submitted the following report:

Alarm Activity: 403

Fire: 12

EMS/Rescue: 199

Mutual Aid Received: 1 (NRFD)

1) I want to say well done to the members of Group 4 and Captain Debitetto for their actions at two recent fires. The first was at Haiku, 717 White Plains Road on November 18th . They quickly extinguished a kitchen fire containing it to the kitchen area and exhaust hood system. The second fire which turned into a second alarm was on December 4th at 5 Leonard Road. A fire in the basement extended into the ceiling and required extensive overhaul to contain and extinguish. All members performed tirelessly and professionally to extinguish the fire, limiting the damage. Thank you to Yonkers FD, New Rochelle FD, and Mt. Vernon FD for their mutual aid assistance.

2) The five probationary firefighters in the Career Fire Academy will be graduating the Career Fire Academy on Friday January 24, 2025.

3) Vehicle and equipment maintenance is being done in house as much as possible by part-time mechanic Hank Henninger. Hank Henninger's mechanic report for October and Tim Dalton's maintenance report for October was emailed to the Board on 12/11/2024.

4) Fire Prevention and Code Enforcement activities continue with numerous plan reviews and inspections. The Fire Prevention reports for October were emailed to the Board on 12/3/2024.

5) Currently there is one member are out on long term absence and one member is assigned to light duty and is working with Isang on digitizing the Fire Prevention records.

6) I request the Board's authorization to hire Dragon Rescue Management to teach a course in Elevator Emergency Management Operations Level. The cost would be \$21,600.00 for six days of training divided amongst the four Groups, or approximately \$300.00 per member, each receiving one day of classroom and one day of operational field training. NY Presbyterian Westchester Hospital has agreed to allow us to use two of their elevators for the four field training days. The proposal was emailed to the Board on 11/14/24, but a resolution was not made to approve the training.

7) I request the Board's authorization to sign the Hazmat vehicle Intermunicipal Agreement subject to C&G legal and insurance company review. The IMA was emailed to the Board on 11/13/24.

8) Tuckahoe Police Chief Rotta has invited the District to send members to drone training course in January 2025 so members could get an FAA license to operate drones. The cost is approximately \$1,000.00 per member and I would like to get 8 members certified.

9) WC BOE has requested to use Sta. 3 for the March 18, 2025 Bronxville Village election. The Board was emailed the request on 12/10/24.

10) I would like to thank Commissioner Brian Keating for his five years of service to the District and residents. I congratulate Commissioner elect Luke Yankowski on his election win. I look forward to working with him on moving the Fire District forward.

Respectfully submitted December 12, 2024 by Fire Chief Brian Tween

NOTES: Commissioner-Elect Luke Yankowski:

Commissioner-elect Luke Yankowski thanked the Commissioners and the Chief for their

congratulations. He introduced himself, sharing that he was born and raised in Eastchester, has two children—both born and raised in Eastchester and now in college—and is a retired Eastchester police sergeant. He expressed his enthusiasm for working with the Board and the department.

- **Secretary Report**

Secretary Marissa “Isang” Smith submitted the following report:

MONTHLY DISTRICT SECRETARY REPORT - December 2024

FIRE DISTRICT ELECTION

- Congratulations to Commissioner-Elect Luke Yankowski on his win at the 2024 Fire District Election. The term is for Fire Commissioner from January 1, 2025 - December 31, 2029.
- A total of 580 votes were cast, with 398 for Luke Yankowski. Other notable numbers included Anthony Fiore, Jr. with 103 votes, Kenneth S. Simonides with 76 votes, and 3 write-ins. The results were filed with the Town Clerk Wednesday, December 11, 2024.
- Thank you again to the Village of Bronxville, the Tuckahoe Community Center, the Eastchester Public Library and Leroy Gregory Post for hosting our polling sites and your support throughout.
- Thank you to our election inspectors for going above and beyond and ensuring a smooth, transparent and accessible election.
- Lastly, thank you to the members and the EFD staff for their continued support and contributions towards a successful election day.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Social Media

- **November Activity:** 3 posts
- **Community Forms:** Continued work for After the Fire pamphlet project for website and for handouts. Spanish version for Resident Safety and Lithium Ion Battery Safety being prepared.

Website and Notices

- Ongoing updates to the website and review of social media records retention options.
- Collaborating with Chief Tween on an updated annual report for 2024 for the Eastchester Fire District.

FOIL OFFICER

- **November Activity:** Received 5 FOIL requests

RECORDS MANAGEMENT OFFICER

- **Records 2024:** Preparation for relocation of the HQ 2024 records to Station 3 records room.
- **Ongoing Projects:** Continued work on organizing loose records and scanning projects

OFFICE - GENERAL

- Prepared the OML document for the December meeting.
- Updated and posted minutes on the website.
- Updated the 2024 resolutions spreadsheet.
- Performed regular office tasks including scheduling, billing, customer service, and staff support.

Business Office Recommendations

Subject 6.1 - Payment of Bills

Recommended Action BE IT RESOLVED: That the Board of Fire Commissioners approves to pay the bills and vouchers as presented. The Board has been supplied with two sets of bills, and one credit card bill. 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- 12/12/24- \$34,634.39
Warrant 2 - 12/12/24- \$19,036.34
Credit Card – 12/18/24 - \$8,854.13
Total: \$62,485.26

Motion by Chairman. Carlo, seconded by Commr. Lore
Aye: Commr. Cerasi, Commr. Lore, Commr. Ranellone, Commr. Carlo
Final: Motion Carried

OTHER BUSINESS

7.1 - DACK CONSULTING SOLUTIONS - Discussion

Chairman Carlo invited representatives from DACK Consulting Solutions to present their services and how they would be able to assist with the Station 3 Project:

DACK Consulting Solutions:

The representatives from DACK Consulting Solutions introduced themselves and provided an overview of their approach to fire department projects. They emphasized their experience in working with fire departments and their commitment to tailoring solutions to fit the

department's specific needs while respecting the legacy of past members. They take pride in their recent work with fire departments and enjoy working closely with engineering teams and Boards to ensure the best possible outcomes.

They explained that their approach focuses on risk management, ensuring that every aspect of the project is examined to keep it on schedule and within budget. Their work includes assisting in procuring bond measures while also working within existing budget constraints. Upon being hired, DACK collaborates with architects to identify cost-saving opportunities and mitigate potential risks.

The team detailed their process for managing the bidding phase, which includes handling bid distribution, reviewing submissions, and preparing a comprehensive report comparing prices and contractor qualifications. Once work begins, they assign a superintendent to oversee daily operations, while an assistant project manager ensures all necessary paperwork is handled from the start to the completion of the project. Their role includes maintaining daily logs, tracking subcontractor activity, and compiling reports for review. They conduct weekly progress meetings with management, subcontractors, and architects, using those meetings to proactively identify and address any potential issues that could delay the project or increase costs.

As the project nears completion, DACK ensures that all warranty documents, as-built plans, and spare parts are provided. They emphasized that their commitment extends beyond the construction phase, maintaining relationships with past clients and remaining a resource for warranty-related concerns. They view themselves as long-term partners, ensuring that the department has continued support even after the project is complete.

There were no immediate questions from the Board, but Commissioner Carlo stated they would reach out if needed.

The Board discussed the DACK Consulting proposal and the ongoing project for Station 3. They questioned whether they were committed to working with a specific firm. It was noted that a contract had already been signed with Highland Associates for the firehouse floor, which included payment for the flooring design and modifications to square off the opening. The discussion also covered the possibility of a more extensive redesign of the firehouse.

Plan A would involve constructing a new firehouse, while Plan B would focus on specific structural modifications. It was mentioned that \$40,000 would be allocated for designing the archway, as it is a load-bearing structure. This would require building a temporary wall before reconstructing the front of the firehouse. However, the total cost of a full firehouse redesign was uncertain, as the percentage of the overall project cost was not yet determined. The Board confirmed that they were not committed to designing an entirely new firehouse but acknowledged that a proposal had been presented.

DACK Consulting works with Sundowsky, and it was noted that the department had already paid \$37,000 for the floor design. Since that portion of the project is already completed, it was considered "water under the bridge."

There were no further questions from the Commissioners.

Subject 7.2 - Bronxville Election March 18, 2025 - Bronxville Firehouse
Meeting December 12, 2024 - Regular Meeting
Recommended Action BE IT RESOLVED: That the Eastchester Board of Fire Commissioners authorizes Chief Tween to sign the Westchester County Board of Elections paperwork to allow the Bronxville firehouse to be used as a polling place on Tuesday March 18, 2025.

Motion by Chairman. Carlo, seconded by Commr. Ranellone
Aye: Commr. Cerasi, Commr. Lore, Commr. Ranellone, Commr. Carlo
Final: Motion Carried

Subject 7.3 - Fire Officer 3 Reimbursement
Meeting December 12, 2024 - Regular Meeting
Recommended Action BE IT RESOLVED: That the Eastchester Board of Fire Commissioners approves to reimburse Lieutenant Domenick DiRienzo for his completion of the Fire Officer 3 program through Bucks County Community College as per Article 13 - Education Allowance in the CBA for an overall total of \$632.50.

Motion by Chairman. Carlo, seconded by Commr. Ranellone
Aye: Commr. Cerasi, Commr. Lore, Commr. Ranellone, Commr. Carlo
Final: Motion Carried

Subject 7.4 - Dragon Rescue Management
Meeting December 12, 2024 - Regular Meeting
Recommended Action BE IT RESOLVED: That the Eastchester Board of Fire Commissioners authorizes Chief Tween to hire Dragon Rescue Management to teach a course in Elevator Emergency Management Operations Level. The cost would be \$21,600.00 for six days of training divided amongst the four Groups, or approximately \$300.00 per member, each receiving one day of classroom and one day of operational field training. NY Presbyterian Westchester Hospital has agreed to allow us to use two of their elevators for the four field training days.

Motion by Chairman. Carlo, seconded by Commr. Lore
Aye: Commr. Cerasi, Commr. Lore, Commr. Ranellone, Commr. Carlo
Final: Motion Carried

Subject 7.5 - Dragon Rescue Management

Meeting December 12, 2024 - Regular Meeting

Recommended Action BE IT RESOLVED: That the Eastchester Board of Fire Commissioners authorizes Chief Tween to sign the Hazmat Vehicle Intermunicipal Board's authorization to sign the Hazmat vehicle Intermunicipal Agreement subject to C&G legal and insurance company review.

Motion by Chairman. Carlo, seconded by Commr. Ranellone
Aye: Commr. Cerasi, Commr. Lore, Commr. Ranellone, Commr. Carlo
Final: Motion Carried

Subject 7.6 - Drone Training Course

Meeting December 12, 2024 - Regular Meeting

Recommended Action BE IT RESOLVED: That the Eastchester Board of Fire Commissioners authorizes Chief Tween to collaborate with Tuckahoe Police Chief Rotta to send members to drone training course in January 2025 so members could get an FAA license to operate drones. The cost is approximately \$1,000.00.

NOTES: Commr. Lore asked if there were any specific personnel that had to go. Chief Tween clarified they would canvass personnel for interest. Chairman Carlo asked for clarification for additional training, and Chief Tween clarified this was just for FAA license, and that they would have to buy a drone down the road.

Motion by Chairman. Carlo, seconded by Commr. Lore
Aye: Commr. Cerasi, Commr. Lore, Commr. Ranellone, Commr. Carlo
Final: Motion Carried

Future Meeting Dates

Reorganization Meeting - January 7, 2025 - Station 1 - Fire Headquarters

Comments from Local 916

Union President Joseph Costanzo expressed gratitude to Commissioner Keating for his dedication and service. He also congratulated Commissioner-elect Luke Yankowski and acknowledged the efforts made over the past year. Costanzo highlighted upcoming developments in 2025, including the addition of firefighters, Engine 31, and Station 3. He concluded by extending holiday wishes and appreciation to taxpayers.

Comments from the Public

No comments from the public.

Comments from the Commissioners

Commissioner Ranellone shared that on November 23, he attended the memorial breakfast honoring deceased members of Local 916. He also shared that, along with the Chief and Commissioner Carlo, he met with the Safety Committee at headquarters.

Commissioner Cerasi congratulated Luke Yankowski and extended warm wishes for the holidays and the New Year.

Commissioner Lore reported attending a memorial service for a local firefighter and responding to a fire at Leonard and Post Road. He commended the firefighters for their outstanding work at both incidents. Addressing public concerns, he noted that some citizens questioned the presence of ambulances, emphasizing that they are necessary in case of injuries, particularly during major fires.

Commissioner Lore also responded to a previous public comment, expressing disappointment over an individual who complained that sirens disrupted their golf game or barbecue. Commissioner Lore stated that emergency response is a priority. He recalled that the sound of a whistle once carried a different meaning for him and urged Union President Costanzo to remind firefighters that their work is invaluable and should never be seen as a disturbance. He concluded by wishing everyone happy holidays and looking forward to the January meeting.

Commissioner Carlo also extended wishes for a Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, good health, and happiness, encouraging everyone to enjoy the New Year. The meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM.

Adjournment

**EASTCHESTER FIRE DISTRICT
MINUTES OF THE EASTCHESTER BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
DECEMBER 12, 2024**

Minutes prepared by:
Marissa "Isang" Smith
Secretary to the Board of Fire Commissioners