

# MINUTES

## Reorganizational Meeting of the Eastchester Board of Fire Commissioners

Location: Fire Headquarters - 255 Main Street, Eastchester, NY 10709

(Tuesday, January 7, 2025)

### Board Members Present:

Commissioner Paul Carlo  
Commissioner Anthony J. Lore, Sr.  
Commissioner Luke Yankowski

### Board Members Absent:

Commissioner Tony Cerasi  
Commissioner Paul M. Ranellone

### In Attendance:

Chief Brian Tween  
Treasurer Jamie Hedstrom  
Secretary Marissa "Isang" Smith

1. Salute to the Flag
2. Call to Order

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#### Action: 2.1 - Meeting called to order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Chief Brian Tween.

#### Action 2.2 - Welcome Commissioner Luke Yankowski

Chief Tween welcomed Commissioner Luke Yankowski (2025-2029). Chief Tween asked the Board to make a motion to enter Executive Session. Commr. Lore made the motion, Commr. Carlo seconded. Unanimously passed. The Board entered into Executive Session at 7:05 PM

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3. Executive Session - The Board exited executive session at 7:20 PM.

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4. Chief Tween

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4.1 - Motion to discuss the selection of a Chairman for the Board of Fire Commissioners for 2025. Discussion took place.

**5. Chairman - 2025**

**Action 5.1 - Appointment of Chairman - 2025**

BE IT RESOLVED: That the Board of Fire Commissioners hereby appoints Commissioner Paul Ranellone as Chairman of the Board of Fire Commissioners for 2025.

Motion by Commr. Carlo, seconded by Commr. Lore  
Yes: Commr. Yankowski, Commr. Lore, Commr. Carlo  
Final Resolution: Motion Passed

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**6. Deputy Chairman - 2025**

**Action 6.1 - Appointment of Deputy Chairman - 2025**

BE IT RESOLVED: That the Board of Fire Commissioners hereby appoints Commr. Paul J. Carlo as Deputy Chairman of the Board of Fire Commissioners for 2025.

Motion by Commr. Lore, seconded by Commr. Yankowski  
Yes: Commr. Yankowski, Commr. Lore, Commr. Carlo  
Final Resolution: Motion Passed

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**7. Board Member Committees - 2025**

**Action 7.1 - Appointment of Health and Safety Meeting Board Rep**

BE IT RESOLVED: That the Board of Fire Commissioners hereby appoints Chairman Paul Ranellone and Commissioner Luke Yankowski as Health and Safety Committee Meeting Board Representative(s) for 2025

Motion by Commr. Lore, seconded by Commr. Yankowski  
Yes: Commr. Yankowski, Commr. Lore, Commr. Carlo  
Final Resolution: Motion Passed

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**8. Action 8.1 - Appointment of Fire District Treasurer**

BE IT RESOLVED: That the Board of Fire Commissioners hereby appoints Jamie Hedstrom, CPA, MST to the position of Fire District Treasurer of Eastchester Fire District until December 31, 2025, at the rate of \$95.00 per hour.

The position also has:

- Pension eligibility: Yes
- Health Care Insurance: as required by per law, NYSHIP rules & requirements
- Holidays: unpaid
- Sick Leave: as required by law
- Sick Leave Incentive: NONE
- Hours: varied / estimated to be 20 hours per week

- Longevity: None
- Personal days: None
- Vacation: 4 weeks paid @ 20 hours per week
- Overtime: As required by law

Motion by Commr. Carlo, seconded by Commr. Lore  
 Yes: Commr. Yankowski, Commr. Lore, Commr. Carlo  
 Final Resolution: Motion Passed

**9. Action 9.1 - Appointment of Secretary to EBOFC**

BE IT RESOLVED: That the Board of Fire Commissioners hereby appoints Marissa “Isang” Smith to the position of Secretary to the Board of Fire Commissioners of Eastchester Fire District until December 31, 2025, at a salary of \$78,280.

The position also has:

- Participation in NYSLRS- required
- Health insurance per board policy with 10% premium contribution
- Vacation:
  - Upon hire- 2 weeks,
  - Upon anniversary of 3 years- 3 weeks, and
  - Upon anniversary of 4 years- 4 weeks
- 8 days of paid sick leave
- 8 holidays and (1) floater holiday per board policy
- Four (4) personal days
- Position is eligible for dental coverage provided by an IAFF L-916 Dental Plan
- Optical- none
- Bereavement- none
- Sick leave incentive- none
- FMLA/PFL- FMLA as required by law
- Educational Reimbursement- none

Motion by Commr. Carlo, seconded by Commr. Yankowski  
 Yes: Commr. Yankowski, Commr. Lore, Commr. Carlo  
 Final Resolution: Motion Passed

**10. Action 10.1 - Appointment of FOIL Officer**

BE IT RESOLVED: That the Board of Fire Commissioners hereby appoints Marissa “Isang” Smith as Freedom Of Information Law Officer of Eastchester Fire District until December 31, 2025.

Motion by Commr. Carlo, seconded by Commr. Yankowski  
 Yes: Commr. Yankowski, Commr. Lore, Commr. Carlo  
 Final Resolution: Motion Passed

**11. Action 11.1 - Appointment of FOIL Appeal Officer**

BE IT RESOLVED: That the Board of Fire Commissioners hereby appoints Chief Brian Tween as Freedom Of Information Law Appeals Officer of Eastchester Fire District until December 31, 2025.

Motion by Commr. Carlo, seconded by Commr. Lore  
Yes: Commr. Yankowski, Commr. Lore, Commr. Carlo  
Final Resolution: Motion Passed

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**12. Action 12.1 - Appointment of Fire District Counsel**

BE IT RESOLVED: That the Board of Fire Commissioners hereby appoints Coughlin & Gerhart, LLP, 99 Corporate Drive, Binghamton, NY 13902-2039 as Fire District Counsel of Eastchester Fire District until December 31, 2025.

Motion by Commr. Carlo, seconded by Commr. Yankowski  
Yes: Commr. Yankowski, Commr. Lore, Commr. Carlo  
Final Resolution: Motion Passed

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**13. Action 13.1 - Appointment of Fire District Ethics Counsel**

BE IT RESOLVED: That the Board of Fire Commissioners hereby appoints Steven Sledzik, Esq. of Morrison Law Firm, P.C. 445 Hamilton Ave, Suite 505, White Plains, NY 10601 as Fire District Ethics Counsel of Eastchester Fire District until December 31, 2025.

Motion by Commr. Carlo, seconded by Commr. Yankowski  
Yes: Commr. Yankowski, Commr. Lore, Commr. Carlo  
Final Resolution: Motion Passed

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**14. 14.1 - Appointment of Fire District Auditor**

BE IT RESOLVED: That the Board of Fire Commissioners hereby appoints BST & Co. CPAs, LLP, 26 Computer Dr. W, Albany, NY 12205, as Fire District Auditor of Eastchester Fire District until December 31, 2025.

Motion by Commr. Carlo, seconded by Commr. Lore  
Yes: Commr. Yankowski, Commr. Lore, Commr. Carlo  
Final Resolution: Motion Passed

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**15. 15.1 - Appointment of Fire District Physician**

BE IT RESOLVED: That the Board of Fire Commissioners hereby appoints Dr. Shikha Goyal of White Plains Urgent Care at 294 Tarrytown Road White Plains, NY 10607, as Fire District Physician of Eastchester Fire District until December 31, 2025.

Motion by Commr. Carlo, seconded by Commr. Lore  
Yes: Commr. Yankowski, Commr. Lore, Commr. Carlo

**16. 16.1 - Appointment of Fire District Chaplains**

BE IT RESOLVED: That the Board of Fire Commissioners hereby appoints Rev. Carl Maiello from the Good Shepherd Church, Fr. Anthony Sorgie from the Immaculate Conception Church, Rabbi Sruli Dietsch from Chabad of Bronxville, Monsignor Luke Sweeney, Pastor of Immaculate Heart of Mary Church and Reverend Dr. Matthew Waterstone of the Reformed Church of Bronxville as Fire District Chaplains of Eastchester Fire District until December 31, 2025.

Motion by Commr. Carlo, seconded by Commr. Lore  
Yes: Commr. Yankowski, Commr. Lore, Commr. Carlo  
Final Resolution: Motion Passed

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**17. 17.1 - Appointment of Fire District Insurance Agent**

BE IT RESOLVED: That the Board of Fire Commissioners hereby appoints ARTHUR J. GALLAGHER RISK MANAGEMENT SERVICES, 2 Westchester Park Drive, White Plains, NY as Fire District Insurance Agent of Eastchester Fire District until December 31, 2025.

Motion by Commr. Carlo, seconded by Commr. Yankowski  
Yes: Commr. Yankowski, Commr. Lore, Commr. Carlo  
Final Resolution: Motion Passed

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**18. 18.1 - Appointment of Official Newspaper for Legal Notice**

BE IT RESOLVED: That the Board of Fire Commissioners hereby appoints The Journal News as Official Newspaper for Legal Notice of Eastchester Fire District until December 31, 2025.

Motion by Commr. Carlo, seconded by Commr. Yankowski  
Yes: Commr. Yankowski, Commr. Lore, Commr. Carlo  
Final Resolution: Motion Passed

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**19. 19.1 - Appointment of Fire District Depository**

BE IT RESOLVED: That the Board of Fire Commissioners hereby appoints JP Morgan Chase and the Federal Reserve Treasury Direct Account as Fire District Depositories of Eastchester Fire District until December 31, 2025.

Motion by Commr. Carlo, seconded by Commr. Yankowski  
Yes: Commr. Yankowski, Commr. Lore, Commr. Carlo  
Final Resolution: Motion Passed

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**20. 20.1 - Affirm Workplace Violence Policy**

Commissioner Carlo affirmed that the Eastchester Board of Fire Commissioners hereby affirms that the contact person for receiving any complaints in 2025 will be Chief Brian Tween and/or the Fire Board Chairman. Copies of said policies should be posted in each firehouse.

Motion by Commr. Carlo, seconded by Commr. Lore  
Yes: Commr. Yankowski, Commr. Lore, Commr. Carlo  
Final Resolution: Motion Passed

**21. 21.1 - Affirm Fire District Code of Ethics**

Commissioner Carlo affirmed that the Eastchester Board of Fire Commissioners hereby affirms that the Code of Ethics of the Fire District (rev. 2019) has been distributed to all Board members, the Fire District Treasurer, the Secretary to the Board of Fire Commissioners and Fire Chief; a certification will follow to all for confirmation. The Board instructed the Chief to have copies posted in each Firehouse.

Motion by Commr. Carlo, seconded by Commr. Yankowski  
Yes: Commr. Yankowski, Commr. Lore, Commr. Carlo  
Final Resolution: Motion Passed

**22. Mechanic Tim Dalton - Benefits**

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Fire Commissioners hereby approves a 3% increase to Mechanic Tim Dalton's salary, effective January 1, 2025.

Motion by Commr. Carlo, seconded by Commr. Yankowski  
Yes: Commr. Yankowski, Commr. Lore, Commr. Carlo  
Final Resolution: Motion Passed

**23. SPRING CFA 2025 - DISCUSSION**

Chief Tween emphasized the need to determine the number of seats required for the Spring 2025 Academy and asked the Board how many candidates would be sent. Commr. Carlo noted that Chairman Ranellone was interested in adding an additional member to 31, but he expressed concerns about the unresolved collective bargaining agreement. Given this, he preferred to send only one candidate to the academy. Commr. Lore inquired about the maximum number of candidates allowed. Commr. Carlo acknowledged that the budget allowed for sending five to the academy but emphasized that no commitment had been made. Commr. Lore requested that the discussion be moved to the January 16, 2025, meeting for further consideration.

**24. EBOFC Meeting Schedule - 2025**

BE IT RESOLVED: That the Board of Fire Commissioners hereby adopts the proposed 2025 Eastchester Board of Fire Commissioners Meeting Schedule, as follows:

- January 16, 2025
- February 16, 2025

- March 13, 2025
- April 10, 2025
- May 8, 2025
- June 12, 2025
- July 10, 2025
- August 14, 2025
- September 11, 2025
- October 16, 2025
- November 13, 2025
- December 11, 2025

Motion by Commr. Carlo, seconded by Commr. Lore  
Yes: Commr. Yankowski, Commr. Lore, Commr. Carlo  
Final Resolution: Motion Passed

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**25. Comments from Local 916**

Paul Denaut asked the Board to clarify comments regarding the one spot for the Spring CFA, noting his understanding of the approved budget and a 14% tax increase. Commr. Carlo stated that he wanted the CBA resolved before moving forward with hiring five candidates.

Denaut and Commr. Carlo discussed the commitment to hiring, with Commr. Carlo clarifying that while it was included in the budget, it was not a definite decision. Denaut believed the budget increase was due to funding for a third firefighter. Commr. Carlo confirmed this was factored into the budget and suggested the additional hiring could be considered for the September academy class. Denaut then inquired about how funds would be allocated in the meantime.

Denaut also asked about plans to hire additional personnel for Bronxville. Commr. Carlo explained that, given the current approach, it would require further discussion. Chief Tween mentioned the possibility of a SAFER grant, which could reimburse salaries for the first three years, though approval was not guaranteed. Treasurer Jamie Hedstrom clarified that the budget is an estimate at the time of preparation. While the increase was partially based on anticipated needs, the Board retains flexibility to reallocate funds as necessary.

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**26. Comments from the Public**

No Comments from the public.

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**27. Comments from the Commissioners**

Commr. Lore wished everyone a Happy New Year, expressing hopes for zero fires and good luck to all personnel in their new positions. He also extended his blessings to all firefighters.

Commr. Carlo welcomed Luke Yankowski to the Board and noted that a moment of silence would be observed at the next meeting. He also shared that Commissioners Cerasi and Ranellone are expected to return soon following health issues.

## **28. Adjournment**

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### **Motion to Adjourn**

Motion by Commr. Carlo unanimously agreed upon.

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

**EASTCHESTER FIRE DISTRICT  
MINUTES OF THE EASTCHESTER BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS  
JANUARY 7, 2025**

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