

EASTCHESTER FIRE DISTRICT
MINUTES OF THE EASTCHESTER BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
JUNE 12, 2025

Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Eastchester Board of Fire Commissioners held on Thursday, June 12, 2025 at 7:00 p.m., at Eastchester Town Hall (40 Mill Road) Eastchester, NY 10709.

Board Members Present:

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

In Attendance:

Chief Brian Tween
Treasurer Jamie Hedstrom
Secretary Marissa “Isang” Smith

● **CALL TO ORDER**

Action: 1.1 - Meeting called to order

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 PM by Chairman Ranellone

● **SALUTE TO THE FLAG**

Adoption of Minutes

Recommended
Action

BE IT RESOLVED: That the Board of Fire Commissioners approves to adopt the following meeting minutes:

- April 28, 2025 - Special Meeting
- May 8, 2025 -Regular Meeting

Motion by Commr. Lore, seconded by Commr. Cerasi

Aye: Commr. Yankowski, Commr. Lore, Commr. Carlo, Commr. Ranellone, Commr. Cerasi

Final: Motion Carried

● **Treasurer Report**

Treasurer Jamie Hedstrom presented the Treasurer report to the Board:

June 12, 2025

To: Board of Fire Commissioners, Eastchester Fire District
From: Jamie Hedstrom, Treasurer
Subject: Actual vs. Budget Comparison, May 2025

The financials as of May 31, 2025 currently present a net budget surplus of approximately \$760K.

The budget transfers recommended at the May meeting were approved and have been made. We will continue to monitor the GL for future budget transfer recommendations.

Funds allocated to 2025

Below is the current list of budget encumbrances for 2025.

Budget Encumbrances- Purchases initiated that won't be complete until 2025

Emergency Equipment	\$26,204.90
Coats, Boots, Helmets	\$22,836.00
Total	\$49,040.90

Budget Encumbrances- Engine to be delivered in Q3 2026

Ladder Truck Commitment	\$1,064,000.00
2024 Encumbrance- Fire Equip and Cap Outlay	(\$500,000.00)
2025 Encumbrance- Fire Equip and Cap Outlay	(\$500,000.00)
Additional Funding Required	\$64,000.00

Other:

Treasury Direct Investments

We have resumed our Treasury Direct Investments, in \$3M increments. Interest rates remain around 4.2%.

Year-End Audit

The fieldwork on our year-end audit with BST & Co. is complete, and we have just received drafts of our financial statements for review.

Upcoming Worker's Compensation Renewal

In 2024, the Board entered into a two-year agreement with PERMA for worker's compensation coverage. The guaranteed coverage cost for the upcoming renewal year ranged from approximately \$200K - \$225K depending on our loss ratio, with an estimated NYS assessment charge of approximately \$18K.

Included in tonight's warrant is the PERMA invoice for the upcoming renewal year, 7/1/2025 through 6/30/2026.

Per the invoice, the total cost of coverage is \$217,518, with a discount of \$4,162 if we pay in full by 7/1/2025. This amount is broken down as follows:

Year Two Contribution 7/1/2025 - 6/30/2026		Loss Ratio 19%
Total Contribution:	\$	208,112.00
New York State Assessment:	\$	13,946.00
Total Estimated Contribution & Assessment	\$	222,058.00
Dividend	\$	(4,540.00)
Total Estimated Coverage Cost due PERMA	\$	217,518.00
2% Discount on Contribution Amount:	\$	(4,162.00)
Total amount due by 7/1/2025 after taking advantage of the discount:	\$	213,356.00

This is a decrease in the cost of coverage from the 2024-2025 coverage year, and is less than the budgeted amount for worker's compensation in 2025.

Preliminary Budget Planning

At this time feedback is requested from the Commissioners and the Chief on any major items anticipated or planning to be proposed for the 2026 budget.

As with 2025, no carryover will be available for purposes of the 2% tax cap. A 2% budget increase would be approximately \$470K depending on the tax base growth factor and allowable levy growth factors, which are not yet available.

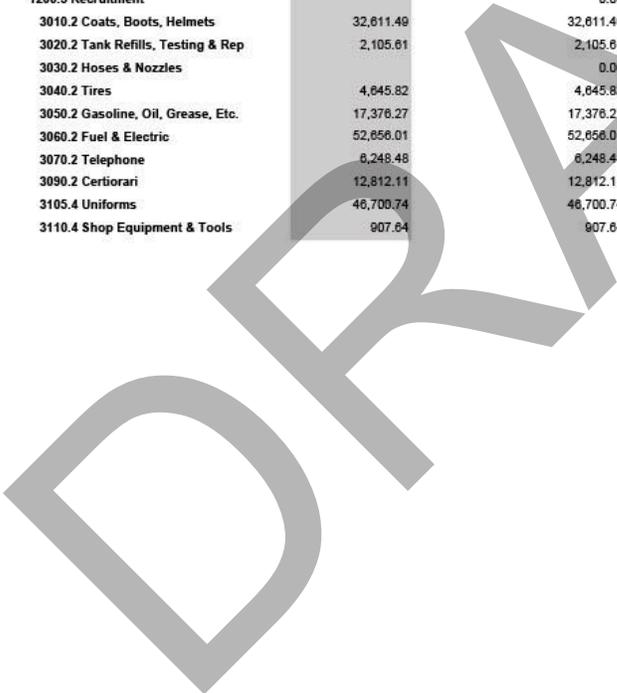
Eastchester, NY Fire District
Budget vs. Actuals: FY2025 - FY25 P&L
 January - May 2025

	Actual	Budget	Total over Budget	% of Budget
Income				
Use of Capital Reserve				
Appropriated Fund Balance				
Budget Encumbrances	26,204.90	26,204.90	0.00	100.00%
1001 Real Property Taxes	23,872,423.00		23,872,423.00	
2401 Interest Earnings	35,415.14		35,415.14	
2701 Refund of PY Expenditure	14,328.76		14,328.76	
2705 Miscellaneous Income	250.00		250.00	
2770 Workers Comp - Reimbursement	12,685.84	12,000.00	685.84	105.72%
Total Income	\$ 23,946,978.88	\$ 38,204.90	\$ 23,908,773.98	62680.39%
Gross Profit	\$ 23,946,978.88	\$ 38,204.90	\$ 23,908,773.98	62680.39%
Expenses				
1110.5 Outside Services	4,825.00	5,000.00	(375.00)	92.50%
1120.5 Fire Prevention	1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00	
1140.5 Payroll Processing Expense	8,141.71	4,583.35	3,558.36	177.64%
1150.5 Insurance	96,058.68	112,500.00	(16,441.32)	85.39%
1170.5 Other Miscellaneous Expenses	293.95	5,000.00	(4,706.05)	5.88%
1180.5 Education & Travel	1,341.46	2,083.35	(741.89)	64.39%
1200.5 Recruitment		1,394.50	(1,394.50)	0.00%
3010.2 Coats, Boots, Helmets	32,811.49	31,250.00	1,361.49	104.36%
3020.2 Tank Refills, Testing & Rep	2,105.61	8,333.35	(8,227.74)	25.27%
3030.2 Hoses & Nozzles		8,333.35	(8,333.35)	0.00%
3040.2 Tires	4,645.82	6,666.65	(2,020.83)	69.69%
3050.2 Gasoline, Oil, Grease, Etc.	17,376.27	20,833.35	(3,457.08)	83.41%
3060.2 Fuel & Electric	52,508.29	41,666.65	10,841.64	126.02%
3070.2 Telephone	6,248.48	22,916.65	(16,668.17)	27.27%
3090.2 Certiorari	12,812.11	83,333.35	(70,521.24)	15.37%
3105.4 Uniforms	44,131.24	44,200.00	(68.76)	99.84%
3110.4 Shop Equipment & Tools	907.64	2,083.35	(1,175.71)	43.57%
3115.4 Emergency Equipment	111,717.38	88,704.90	23,012.48	125.94%
3120.4 EMS Supplies and Services	6,047.97	8,333.35	(2,285.38)	72.58%
3125.4 Computers, Software & Internet	27,830.49	27,583.35	247.14	100.90%
3130.4 Office Supplies	2,800.14	3,333.35	(533.21)	84.00%
3135.4 Postage	877.92	625.00	52.92	108.47%
3140.4 Subscriptions	140.00	500.00	(360.00)	28.00%
3145.4 Association Dues	1,581.25	625.00	956.25	253.00%
3150.4 Elections & Referendums	335.00	0.00	335.00	
3155.4 Sewer Tax	15,153.18	15,153.18	0.00	100.00%
3160.4 Fire Training	27,279.20	18,000.00	9,279.20	151.55%
3210.3 Vehicle Maintenance	61,711.89	41,666.65	20,045.24	148.11%

3220.3 Radio Equipment & Maintenance	310.57	25,000.00	(24,689.43)	1.24%
3230.3 Ladder & Pump Testing		1,666.65	(1,666.65)	0.00%
3240.3 Bldg/Prop Repairs & Maintenance	79,215.08	83,333.35	(4,118.27)	95.06%
3410.11 Fire Chief salary	96,883.20	95,833.35	1,049.85	101.10%
3410.12 Assistant Fire Chief salary	87,072.00	82,083.35	4,988.65	106.08%
3410.13 Fire Captains salary	365,992.00	375,000.00	(9,008.00)	97.60%
3410.14 Fire Lieutenants salary	544,183.20	554,166.65	(9,983.45)	98.20%
3410.15 Uniformed Firefighters salary	2,581,090.90	2,750,000.00	(168,909.10)	93.86%
3410.16 Maintenance Workers salary	32,805.20	32,083.35	521.85	101.63%
3410.17 Mechanics salary	18,881.25	20,833.35	(1,952.10)	90.63%
3410.18 Treasurer/Secy/PT Asst salary	74,754.70	73,416.65	1,338.05	101.82%
3410.2 Fire Equipment and Capital Outlay		0.00	0.00	
3410.42 Accountants / Auditors fees	14,172.37	17,500.00	(3,327.63)	80.98%
3410.44 Year-End fees		0.00	0.00	
Total 3410.42 Accountants / Auditors fees	\$ 14,172.37	\$ 17,500.00	\$ (3,327.63)	80.98%
3410.46 Consultants fees	4,500.00	4,500.00	0.00	100.00%
3410.465 Consultant Fees- Engineers		0.00	0.00	
3410.47 Professional Consultants fees	9,591.24	37,500.00	(27,908.76)	25.58%
Total 3410.46 Consultants fees	\$ 14,091.24	\$ 42,000.00	\$ (27,908.76)	33.55%
3410.49 Payroll Clearing account	23,291.12	0.00	23,291.12	
3410.81 Disabled Firemen salary -207A's	68,403.06	83,750.00	(15,346.94)	81.68%
3411.1 Holiday Pay	2,682.24	0.00	2,682.24	
3412.1 Retroactive Pay	69.44	69.44	0.00	
3413.1 Overtime - Firefighters	372,936.96	520,833.35	(147,896.39)	71.60%
3413.12 Overtime- Training	32,186.32	30,000.00	2,186.32	107.29%
3413.13 Overtime- Sick Incentive	2,972.40	31,250.00	(28,277.60)	9.51%
3413.14 Overtime- Chiefs	8,398.71	10,416.65	(2,017.94)	80.63%
3413.2 Overtime - Fire Prevention	18,309.48	16,666.65	1,642.83	109.86%
3414.1 EMT Training	18,000.00	10,000.00	8,000.00	180.00%
3416.1 Terminal Leave	36,807.43	0.00	36,807.43	
9010.8 NYS Retirement		0.00	0.00	
9020.8 Social Security	331,094.88	358,333.35	(27,238.47)	92.40%
9030.8 Payroll Tax - MTA	14,715.92	16,176.25	(1,460.33)	90.97%
9040.8 Workers Compensation		0.00	0.00	
9045.8 Life Insurance - Local 916	25,372.80	23,000.00	2,372.80	110.32%
9050.8 Physician / Medical costs	9,335.50	25,000.00	(15,664.50)	37.34%
9060.81 Hospital	1,641,116.47	1,936,666.68	(295,550.21)	84.74%
9060.82 Dental	140,000.00	140,000.00	0.00	100.00%
9060.83 Optical Plan - Local 916	45,800.00	53,000.00	(7,400.00)	86.04%
Total Expenses	\$ 7,240,626.61	\$ 8,002,295.66	\$ (761,669.05)	90.48%
Net Operating Income	\$ 16,706,352.27	\$ (7,964,090.76)	\$ 24,670,443.03	-209.77%
Net Income	\$ 16,706,352.27	\$ (7,964,090.76)	\$ 24,670,443.03	-209.77%

Eastchester, NY Fire District
Budget vs. Actuals: FY2025 Budget - FY25 P&L
 January - December 2025

	Actual	Appropriated for 2026	Actual + Appropriated	Budget- with Modifications	Total Original Budget	Budget Encumbrances from 2025 & Mods	over Budget	% of Budget
Income								
Use of Capital Reserve	0.00		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Appropriated Fund Balance	0.00		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Budget Encumbrances	49,040.90		49,040.90	49,040.90	0.00	49,040.90	0.00	100.00%
1001 Real Property Taxes	23,872,423.00		23,872,423.00	23,872,423.00	23,872,423.00	23,872,423.00	0.00	100.00%
2401 Interest Earnings	87,972.56		87,972.56			0.00	87,972.56	
2701 Refund of PY Expenditure	14,328.78		14,328.78			0.00	14,328.78	
2705 Miscellaneous Income	5,450.00		5,450.00			0.00	5,450.00	
2770 Workers Comp - Reimb	14,285.84		14,285.84	21,000.00	21,000.00	21,000.00	(6,714.16)	68.03%
Total Income	\$ 24,043,501.06	\$ -	\$ 24,043,501.06	\$ 23,942,463.90	\$ 23,893,423.00	\$ 23,942,463.90	\$ 101,037.16	100.42%
Gross Profit								
	\$ 24,043,501.06	\$ -	\$ 24,043,501.06	\$ 23,942,463.90	\$ 23,893,423.00		\$ 101,037.16	100.42%
Expenses								
1110.4 Archiving Services & Exp	0.00		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
1110.5 Outside Services	4,625.00		4,625.00	12,000.00	12,000.00	0.00	(7,375.00)	38.54%
1120.5 Fire Prevention	1,000.00		1,000.00	9,000.00	9,000.00	0.00	(8,000.00)	11.11%
1140.5 Payroll Processing Exp	10,067.89		10,067.89	11,000.00	11,000.00	0.00	(932.11)	91.53%
1150.5 Insurance	143,905.43		143,905.43	225,000.00	225,000.00	0.00	(81,094.57)	63.96%
1170.5 Other Miscellaneous Expenses	293.95		293.95	12,000.00	12,000.00	0.00	(11,706.05)	2.45%
1180.5 Education & Travel	1,341.46		1,341.46	5,000.00	5,000.00	0.00	(3,658.54)	26.83%
1200.5 Recruitment			0.00	3,346.82	5,000.00	(1,653.18)	(3,346.82)	0.00%
3010.2 Coats, Boots, Helmets	32,611.49		32,611.49	97,836.00	75,000.00	22,836.00	(65,224.51)	33.33%
3020.2 Tank Refills, Testing & Rep	2,105.61		2,105.61	20,000.00	20,000.00	0.00	(17,894.39)	10.53%
3030.2 Hoses & Nozzles			0.00	20,000.00	20,000.00	0.00	(20,000.00)	0.00%
3040.2 Tires	4,645.82		4,645.82	16,000.00	16,000.00	0.00	(11,354.18)	29.04%
3050.2 Gasoline, Oil, Grease, Etc.	17,378.27		17,378.27	50,000.00	50,000.00	0.00	(32,621.73)	34.75%
3060.2 Fuel & Electric	52,656.01		52,656.01	100,000.00	100,000.00	0.00	(47,343.99)	52.66%
3070.2 Telephone	6,248.48		6,248.48	55,000.00	55,000.00	0.00	(48,751.52)	11.36%
3090.2 Certiorari	12,812.11		12,812.11	200,000.00	200,000.00	0.00	(187,187.89)	6.41%
3105.4 Uniforms	46,709.74		46,709.74	76,000.00	76,000.00	0.00	(29,290.26)	61.46%
3110.4 Shop Equipment & Tools	907.64		907.64	5,000.00	5,000.00	0.00	(4,092.36)	18.15%



Eastchester, NY Fire District
Budget vs. Actuals: FY2025 Budget - FY25 P&L
 January - December 2025

	Actual	Appropriated for 2026	Actual + Appropriated	Budget- with Modifications	Total		Budget Encumbrances from 2025 & Mods	over Budget	% of Budget
					Original Budget				
3115.4 Emergency Equipment	112,871.56		112,871.56	176,204.90	150,000.00		26,204.90	(63,333.34)	64.06%
3120.4 EMS Supplies and Services	6,867.55		6,867.55	20,000.00	20,000.00		0.00	(13,132.45)	34.34%
3125.4 Computers, Software & Internet	31,430.18		31,430.18	66,200.00	66,200.00		0.00	(34,769.82)	47.48%
3130.4 Office Supplies	3,043.14		3,043.14	8,000.00	8,000.00		0.00	(4,956.86)	38.04%
3135.4 Postage	677.92		677.92	1,500.00	1,500.00		0.00	(822.08)	45.19%
3140.4 Subscriptions	140.00		140.00	1,200.00	1,200.00		0.00	(1,060.00)	11.67%
3145.4 Association Dues	1,581.25		1,581.25	2,000.00	1,500.00	500.00		(418.75)	79.06%
3150.4 Elections & Referendums	335.00		335.00	10,500.00	10,500.00		0.00	(10,165.00)	3.19%
3155.4 Sewer Tax	15,153.18		15,153.18	15,153.18	14,000.00	1,153.18		0.00	100.00%
3160.4 Fire Training	27,279.20		27,279.20	44,000.00	44,000.00			(16,720.80)	62.00%
3210.3 Vehicle Maintenance	60,233.80		60,233.80	100,000.00	100,000.00			(39,766.20)	60.23%
3220.3 Radio Equipment & Maintenance	36,802.40		36,802.40	60,000.00	60,000.00			(23,197.60)	61.34%
3230.3 Ladder & Pump Testing			0.00	4,000.00	4,000.00			(4,000.00)	0.00%
3240.3 Bldg/Prop Repairs & Maintenance	80,578.95		80,578.95	200,000.00	200,000.00			(119,421.05)	40.29%
3410.11 Fire Chief salary	104,956.80		104,956.80	230,000.00	230,000.00			(125,043.20)	45.63%
3410.12 Assistant Fire Chief Salary	94,328.00		94,328.00	197,000.00	197,000.00			(102,672.00)	47.88%
3410.13 Fire Captains salary	399,264.00		399,264.00	900,000.00	900,000.00			(500,736.00)	44.36%
3410.14 Fire Lieutenants salary	593,654.40		593,654.40	1,330,000.00	1,330,000.00			(736,345.60)	44.64%
3410.15 Uniformed Firefighters salary	2,818,787.70		2,818,787.70	6,600,000.00	6,600,000.00			(3,781,212.30)	42.71%
3410.16 Maintenance Workers salary	35,577.20		35,577.20	77,000.00	77,000.00			(41,422.80)	46.20%
3410.17 Mechanics salary	20,651.25		20,651.25	50,000.00	50,000.00			(29,348.75)	41.30%
3410.18 Treasurer/Secy/PT Asst salary	81,565.10		81,565.10	176,200.00	176,200.00			(94,634.90)	46.29%
3410.2 Fire Equipment and Capital Outlay	43,727.10	500,000.00	543,727.10	630,000.00	630,000.00			(86,272.90)	8.94%
3410.42 Accountants / Auditors fees	14,172.37		14,172.37	17,500.00	17,500.00			(3,327.63)	80.98%
3410.46 Consultants fees	4,500.00		4,500.00	4,500.00	0.00	4,500.00		0.00	100.00%

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Eastchester, NY Fire District
Budget vs. Actuals: FY2025 Budget - FY25 P&L
 January - December 2025

	Actual	Appropriated for 2026	Actual + Appropriated	Budget- with Modifications	Total Original Budget	Budget Encumbrances from 2025 & Mods	over Budget	% of Budget
3410.465 Consultant Fees- Engineers			0.00	95,500.00	100,000.00	(4,500.00)	(95,500.00)	0.00%
3410.47 Professional Consultants fees	9,591.24		9,591.24	90,000.00	90,000.00	0.00	(80,408.76)	10.66%
3410.48 Labor Consultants			0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Total 3410.46 Consultants fees	\$ 14,091.24	\$ -	\$ 14,091.24	\$ 190,000.00	\$ 190,000.00	\$ -	(175,908.76)	7.42%
3410.49 Payroll Clearing account	7,702.60		7,702.60			0.00	7,702.60	
3410.81 Disabled Firemen salary -207A's	74,621.52		74,621.52	201,000.00	201,000.00	0.00	(126,378.48)	37.13%
3411.1 Holiday Pay	251,353.08		251,353.08	604,930.56	605,000.00	(66.44)	(353,577.48)	41.55%
3412.1 Retroactive Salary	69.44		69.44	69.44	69.44	69.44	0.00	
3413.1 Overtime - Firefighters	411,902.43		411,902.43	1,250,000.00	1,250,000.00	0.00	(838,097.57)	32.95%
3413.12 Overtime- Training	32,186.32		32,186.32	150,000.00	150,000.00	0.00	(117,813.68)	21.46%
3413.13 Overtime- Sick Incentive	4,634.28		4,634.28	75,000.00	100,000.00	(25,000.00)	(70,365.72)	6.18%
3413.14 Overtime- Chiefs	8,701.47		8,701.47	25,000.00	0.00	25,000.00	(16,298.53)	34.81%
3413.2 Overtime - Fire Prevention	20,061.11		20,061.11	40,000.00	40,000.00	0.00	(19,938.89)	50.15%
3414.1 EMT Training	17,700.00		17,700.00	20,000.00	20,000.00	0.00	(2,300.00)	88.50%
3416.1 Terminal Leave	36,807.43		36,807.43	400,000.00	400,000.00	0.00	(363,192.57)	9.20%
9010.8 NYS Retirement			0.00	3,600,000.00	3,600,000.00	0.00	(3,600,000.00)	0.00%
9020.8 Social Security	379,828.23		379,828.23	860,000.00	860,000.00	0.00	(480,371.77)	44.14%
9030.8 Payroll Tax - MTA	16,872.97		16,872.97	38,823.00	38,823.00	0.00	(21,950.03)	43.46%
9040.8 Workers Compensation	213,356.00		213,356.00	255,000.00	255,000.00	0.00	(41,644.00)	83.67%
9045.8 Life Insurance - Local 916	25,372.80		25,372.80	46,000.00	46,000.00	0.00	(20,627.20)	55.16%
9050.8 Physician / Medical costs	24,210.50		24,210.50	60,000.00	60,000.00	0.00	(35,789.50)	40.35%
9060.81 Hospital	1,918,326.21		1,918,326.21	4,100,000.00	4,100,000.00	0.00	(2,181,673.79)	46.79%
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	45,600.00		45,600.00	53,000.00	53,000.00	0.00	(7,400.00)	86.04%
Total Expenses	\$ 8,564,173.58	\$ 500,000.00	\$ 9,055,472.11	\$ 23,917,463.90	\$ 23,893,423.00	\$ 24,040.90		35.81%
Net Operating Income	\$ 15,479,327.48	\$ 500,000.00	\$ 14,988,028.95	\$ 25,000.00			\$ 14,963,028.95	61917.31%
Net Income			\$ 14,988,028.95	\$ 25,000.00				0.00%

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- **Chief Report**

Alarm Activity: 321

Fire: 4

EMS/Rescue: 182

Mutual Aid Given: 1 (FDMV)

- 1) The Five probationary firefighters in the Westchester County Career Fire Academy are doing well so far and are scheduled to graduate on Friday July 11th.
- 2) Hank Henninger's mechanic report for May was emailed to the Board on 6/4/2025. Ladder 15, a 2002 Seagrave Quint, was auctioned off on the Auction International website. The winning bidder was Rydemore Heavy Duty Truck Parts, Inc. of Fitchburg, Ma with a winning bid of \$5,200.00. The winner has picked up the vehicle and it has been removed from our auto policy.
- 3) Tim Dalton's maintenance report for May was emailed to the Board on 6/4/2025.
- 4) Fire Prevention and Code Enforcement activities continue with numerous plan reviews and inspections. The Fire Prevention reports were emailed to the Board on 6/6/2025.
- 5) Currently there are two members are out on long term absence.
- 6) There are five local High School seniors signed up for the WISE and internship programs during May and June. Five seniors from Eastchester HS are participating this year.
- 7) I ask the Board's approval to charge one night hotel stay in Washington DC to attend Senator Kirsten Gillibrand's Second First Responders Summit at the US Capital. The EFD credit card policy requires the Board's pre-approval for travel expenses. The hotel will cost \$212.20 for one night stay and parking may be up to \$50.00. I ask for approval to spend up to \$300.00 for travel expenses to attend the Summit.
- 8) Frank Casarella of Casarella Contracting Corp. has not confirmed that his quote to repair the Chester Heights gong is quoted with prevailing wage labor rates. He did provide his hourly and weekly salaries for his employees but did not confirm they are NYS DOL prevailing wage labor rates. Master Building and Contracting LLC of the Bronx was the second lowest bidder at \$9,100.00 and his quote states "all work to be completed in accordance of prevailing wage".
- 9) Firefighter Thom Downs retired on 5/22/2025. He was hired on 9/4/2004 and issued badge #179. He retired after more than 20 years of dedicated service to the resident of the Fire District. I wish him a long and healthy retirement.
- 10) Volunteer Firefighter Thomas Boyle passed away on May 16, 2025. Tom was a Volunteer Firefighter for more than 20 years with the North End Engine Company. I ask for the Board to close tonight's meeting with a moment of silence in his memory.

Respectfully submitted June 12, 2025
by Fire Chief Brian Tween

Chief Tween provided an update regarding the upcoming retirement of Thomas Downs and inquired about hiring activity for the Fall 2025 Academy. He requested the Board’s approval to proceed with filling one position at this time.

A discussion followed regarding the interview process. Commr. Yankowski expressed interest in participating in interviews. It was noted that an additional 2–3 candidates may be available for consideration prior to the July meeting.

The discussion concluded with several Board members expressing interest in participating in the interview process, leading to the following motion:

Subject	8.2 - Fall 2025 Academy
Recommended Action	BE IT RESOLVED: That the Eastchester Board of Fire Commissioners authorizes Secretary Marissa Isang Smith to schedule interviews with the candidates with a score of 95 or above that have passed the CPAT as of May 31, 2025.

Motion by Chairman. Ranellone seconded by Commr. Yankowski
Aye: Commr. Yankowski, Commr. Cerasi, Commr. Lore, Chairman. Ranellone
No: Commr. Carlo
Final: Motion Carried

Chief Tween requested clarification on the Sick Leave Policy, specifically whether the District should return to pre-COVID procedures requiring in-person doctor visits. Chief Tween and the Commissioners discussed whether virtual visits should remain an option and at what point a medical evaluation should be required. Questions were raised about the cost-effectiveness of mandatory visits, especially when the District physician often finds them unnecessary. Commr. Ranellone suggested members out for 1–2 tours should return when they feel well, while longer absences may require medical clearance. The Board agreed the current policy needs review.

Local 916 Union President Joseph Costanzo stated the current policy is outdated and costly. He noted the District’s physician often advises that in-person visits aren’t necessary, yet the Board has issued direction requiring them. He emphasized the financial burden and offered to renegotiate the policy.

Chief Tween asked for Board approval to allow the physician discretion in determining if a member out for one tour needs to be seen. Commr. Carlo agreed, and the Chief will speak with the physician. The Board will review the Sick Leave Policy at a future meeting.

- **Secretary Report**

Secretary Marissa “Isang” Smith submitted the following report:

MONTHLY DISTRICT SECRETARY REPORT

JUNE 2025

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Social Media

- May Activity: 4 posts
- Reminders: Tis the season for grilling and fireworks. As a reminder, there are Fire Safety Resources available on EastchesterNYFD.gov under the Fire Prevention tab.

Website

- Ongoing maintenance and updates. Notices and more information for Veolia Hydrant flushing is available on our website.

FOIL OFFICER

- **May Activity:** 5 FOIL requests

RECORDS MANAGEMENT OFFICER

- **Records Storage:** Chief Tween, Captain Pintavalle, Tim Dalton and I met again at Station 5 to discuss storage space in the basement for Fire Prevention records and potentially Station 3 records.
- **Ongoing Projects:** Continued work on organizing loose records and scanning projects

OFFICE - GENERAL

- Prepared the OML document for the May meeting.
- Updated and posted minutes on the website.
- Updated the 2025 resolutions spreadsheet.
- Performed regular office tasks including scheduling, billing, customer service, and staff support.

Business Office Recommendations

7.1 - Payment of Bills

BE IT RESOLVED: That the Board of Fire Commissioners approves to pay the bills and vouchers as presented. The Board has been supplied with one set 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- 6/12/25 - \$787,888.49

Credit Card – 6/18/25 - \$1,800.55

Total: **\$789,689.04**

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

OTHER BUSINESS

8.1 - Chester Heights Gong - Repair

Chairman Ranellone raised concerns over the \$9,100 quote to lower the fire bell, calling it too expensive. He suggested laying the bell on the ground as a simpler alternative. Commr. Yankowski felt it was not appropriate to spend that amount of money at this time.

Commr. Cerasi agreed the cost was too high and questioned ownership. He asked whether the volunteer company would pay for the bell; Commr. Lore said they would not. Cerasi suggested disposing of it if no one would take responsibility, but Ranellone noted its historical value.

Discussion followed about liability and ownership. Lore stated the volunteers consider it theirs but are unwilling to fund the project. The union may have interest, but ownership remains unclear. Historical records are limited; the bell may date back before the fire district's formation in 1916 and appears to be a repurposed railroad wheel rim. Secretary Isang was directed to research the bell's ownership and history.

8.6 - Reimbursement - Nicholas Genova

BE IT RESOLVED: That the Eastchester Board of Fire Commissioners approves to reimburse Firefighter Nicholas Genova for the completion of two classes at the FDNY Training Center, as per Article 13 - Education Allowance in the CBA, for a total of \$990

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

8.4 - Station 3 Project

Chief Tween recommended a project management firm with experience on multiple firehouse projects: Calgi Firm. Previous projects include Millwood, the Village of Rye Brook, Common Ave, Bronxville DPW garage, and the City of Rye. The firm has also worked with both architects involved in the Station 3 project and previously collaborated on the Yonkers firehouse.

Before moving forward with approval, Chief Tween suggested a meeting with the firm in July. The Board agreed to form a committee of two commissioners to meet with the firm and review their proposal. Commissioners Lore and Ranellone will serve on the committee.

Chief Tween raised concerns about ongoing delays in addressing structural issues at the Station 3. He noted that Highland Associates previously proposed starting from scratch with a new build, with the intent to return to the station.

Chief Tween referenced an engineering report dated January, 2022, which identified shoring and corrosion issues and stated that the slab must be repaired. He emphasized that the temporary fix originally intended to last 20 years is in urgent need of addressing.

Chief Tween urged the Board to take action, commenting that the repairs to the floor, roof, and other structural components could be very costly. The Board agreed and the new committee will plan a meeting with the prospective firm.

Future Meeting Dates

June 12, 2025 - Regular Meeting - Eastchester Town Hall - Court Room

8.7 - Chief Tween - First Responders Summit Travel

BE IT RESOLVED: That the Eastchester Board of Fire Commissioners authorizes Chief Tween to spend up to \$300.00 on the department credit card for travel expenses to attend the First Responders Summit in Washington DC.

Motion by Commr. Lore, seconded by Commr. Cerasi

Aye: Commr. Yankowski, Commr. Cerasi, Commr. Lore, Commr. Carlo, Chairman.

Ranellone

Final: Motion Carried

Comments from Local 916

Union President Joseph Costanzo echoed Chief Tween's earlier congratulations to Firefighter Thomas Downs on his career and extended best wishes for his retirement. He also mentioned that

the current Fire Academy class is holding a fundraiser in White Plains, with proceeds benefiting the Building Homes for Heroes Foundation.

Chief Tween confirmed that the Fire Academy graduation will take place on July 11th, and he will provide more information on the location once it is finalized.

Comments from the Public

Tony Fiore, a resident of Tuckahoe, discussed the June 27th Mamaroneck Parade and requested permission to use the shop truck to pull the hose cart. Chief Tween confirmed that as long as Commr. Lore drives the truck, permission has historically been granted and will continue. Only the hose cart will be used for the parade in Mamaroneck.

Fiore also inquired about the use of the upstairs union quarters for Chester Heights. Chief Tween explained that the building department has restricted its use due to issues with no elevator and that the Bronxville Firehouse is currently a higher priority. Until ADA compliance is achieved, the upstairs will remain off-limits.

Commr. Lore raised the possibility of installing a chairlift. Chief Tween responded that the Eastchester building inspector had determined that a chairlift would not be compliant, as it does not accommodate wheelchair access.

Comments from the Commissioners

Commissioner Lore shared that on Saturday, June 14th at 5:00 PM, he had asked the Chief for approval to burn flags in observance of Flag Day. He also extended an invitation to the Board to visit the American Legion to join a barbecue event.

Lore reminded Lieutenant Joseph Costanzo that during the change of shifts, members should not use Station 2, the old Hook and Ladder side, as a parking lot.

Additionally, Lore reminded everyone that St. Anthony's Day is tomorrow, and that Father Sorgie will be distributing bread after Mass.

Commissioner Ranellone reported on several events he attended in recent months. Last month, Local 916 participated in the 15th Annual Memorial Mass for Joe Luici. On May 9th, he attended the Local 916 Retiree Dinner, and on May 10th, he attended memorial ceremonies for local police departments. On May 15th, he attended the VFW Memorial program at Eastchester High School. On May 18th, Ranellone, along with Chief Tween and Commr. Carlo, participated in the Memorial Day Parade. On May 20th and 21st he also attended the wake and funeral of Richard Marcy. On May 22nd, he attended the retirement luncheon for Thomas Downs. On May 25th, Ranellone attended the Volunteer Memorial Mass and gathering at the restaurant. The following day, May 26th, he marched in the Bronxville Parade alongside Local 916 personnel.

On June 8th, Commr. Ranellone, Chief Tween, and Assistant Chief participated in a walk to raise money for pancreatic cancer research, in memory of Captain Phil Pinto. He also mentioned Rev. Dr. James Charles Zwernemann, who served as the department chaplain from the 1970s until 2000. A memorial service for him will be held on July 1st.

Commr. Lore mentioned that Monsquior Sweeney is being transferred to be Dean of students at the seminary so will no longer be the District's chaplain. Also he advised that in 2026, the volunteers memorial service will be may 17th and asked chief tween for an engine.

A moment of silence followed for Volunteer Firefighter Thomas Boyle.

Adjournment – With no further business to discuss, Chairman Ranellone made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was unanimously approved, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

**EASTCHESTER FIRE DISTRICT
MINUTES OF THE EASTCHESTER BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
JUNE 12, 2025**

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