

EASTCHESTER FIRE DISTRICT
MINUTES OF THE EASTCHESTER BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
September 18, 2025

Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Eastchester Board of Fire Commissioners held on Thursday, September 18, 2025 at 7:00 p.m., at Station 1 - Fire Headquarters - 255 Main Street, 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
Assistant Chief Bruce Yozzo
Treasurer Jamie Hedstrom
Secretary Marissa “Isang” Smith

1. Call to Order

1.1 - Meeting Called to Order

September 18, 2025 - Regular Meeting

Chairman Ranellone called the September 18, 2025 Regular Meeting meeting to order at 6:46 PM at Station 1 - Fire Headquarters - 255 Main Street, Eastchester, NY. The September 18, 2025, Regular Meeting of the Eastchester Board of Fire Commissioners is called to Order.

2. Salute to the Flag

3. Executive Session - Chairman Ranellone made the motion to enter into executive session to discuss personnel matters. The board unanimously approved.

4. Return to Public Session: 7:01 PM - Chairman Ranellone made a motion to enter back into public session by Chairman Ranellone

5. Treasurer Report

Treasurer Jamie Hedstrom provided an overview of the financial outlook as of August 31, 2025. She noted larger expenses still pending, and reviewed investments. The key focus of the Treasurers report is the draft of the proposed budget for 2026, which will remain in draft

form until finalized by November 4th. The Budget Hearing has been scheduled for October 21st.

Hedstrom shared that one of the primary considerations is the district's ability to increase the budget by approximately 2.7%, or \$650,000, without exceeding the state tax cap. Hedstrom reported a number of budget adjustments are required. A main item is the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the board and the union, which covers fiscal years 2025, 2026, and 2027. The MOA includes provisions such as 4% annual salary increases, increases to differentials and EMT pay, and an additional paid holiday. While not all union related items were addressed in the MOA, several provisions have an impact on the budget.

Hedstrom reported that in addition to contractual obligations, certain GL accounts must be increased based on historical trends such as for vehicle maintenance and payroll expenses. The budget also includes the replacement of three vehicles in 2026, with an estimate to be approximately \$250,000. These are the only apparatus replacements accounted for in the draft budget. Hedstrom further reported that no capital improvements are currently included, although the board is considering bonding and allocating general funds for consultant fees. At this time, however, there are no budgeted expenditures for capital projects.

Hedstrom also reported that the district has received projections for 2026 showing a 10% increase per tier for radio expenses, which is expected to result in an increase of approximately \$350,000, bringing total radio-related costs close to \$4 million.

In terms of healthcare, no updated estimates have been received from NYSHIP. Based on a three-year average, a 12% increase has been built into the budget. While there is ongoing uncertainty around potential cost increases—due to factors such as Medicaid changes, prescription drug pricing, and tariffs—no additional increase has been included at this time.

As currently proposed, the budget reflects a 4.68% increase, which would exceed the allowable tax cap. To bring the proposal closer in line, adjustments have been made, including the removal of one apparatus and a reduction of approximately \$500,000 in overall expenditures. Several GL accounts were adjusted both up and down to balance the financial plan.

The board must adopt the final budget by September 30th. Further adjustments can be made before that date, and the board has the ability to revise the budget prior to adoption.

During the discussion, Chief Tween asked whether the potential \$64,000 obligation related to Engine 29 was included in the draft. Treasurer Hedstrom responded that she believes it is accounted for and could be covered by Treasury Direct interest earnings that have not been

earmarked. She noted that some of these interest earnings have been reintroduced into the budget. While returns from Treasury Direct were previously low, recent performance has been favorable. Interest earnings from both Treasury Direct and JP Morgan accounts have been factored into the budget as a way to reduce the tax levy, with an estimated potential of up to \$300,000 in earnings.

Commissioner Carlo inquired about the total projected expenditures and tax levy. Hedstrom confirmed that the total expenditure is \$25,071,650, with the projected tax levy expected to be approximately \$24,990,650.

6. Chief Report

Alarm Activity: 341

Fire: 5

EMS/Rescue: 194

Mutual Aid Given: 2 (Yonkers FD, Hartsdale FD)

- 1) Three probationary firefighters began the Career Fire Academy on Tuesday September 9th . They will undergo 21 weeks of rigorous training. Best of luck to Nicholas DiBrino, Kevin Donovan, and Giovanni Ruffolo.
- 2) Hank Henninger's mechanic report for August was emailed to the Board on 9/12/2025.
- 3) Tim Dalton's maintenance report for August was emailed to the Board on 9/12/2025.
- 4) Fire Prevention and Code Enforcement activities continue with numerous plan reviews and inspections. The Fire Prevention reports for August were emailed to the Board on 9/8/2025. The week of October 5 th is Fire Prevention week and the emphasis is on safely charging Lithium-Ion batteries. Captain Pintavalle and the members will be conducting safety demonstrations at many of the local elementary schools.
- 5) Currently there is one member out on long term absence.
- 6) Old car 2107, a 2007 GMC Yukon used by the Fire Prevention office was sold at auction on the Auction International website for \$3,700.00. The winning bidder was Moshe Fogel of Brooklyn.
- 7) The 9/11 Never Forget Mobile Museum will be coming to the Immaculate Conception School parking lot. It will be available for touring on October 6th and 7th . It is sponsored by the Eastchester Rotary Club and the 9/11 Education Foundation.
- 8) The Board has met with two project management firms for the repairs/replacement for the Bronxville firehouse. Please consider hiring DACK Consulting Solutions, Calgi Construction, or some other firm to move the project forward.
- 9) The Board has been presented with three quotes to replace the lower garage door at Fire HQ. The lowest quote is from United Overhead Door Corp. of Mamaroneck, NY for \$5,763.00.
- 10) The Board has been presented with three quotes to purchase fire reporting software to comply with the State and Federal mandate to comply with NERIS, the new fire reporting

requirements. The lowest quote is from Alpine Software RedNMX System for one-year at \$5,995.00. **It is required to be transitioned over by January 1st, 2026.**

11) The Board has been presented with a proposal for Emergency Medical Technician training. The current instructor will no longer be available after 12/31/2025.

12) I request the Board to close tonight's meeting with a moment of silence in memory of the passing of volunteer firefighter Robert Sullivan. He passed on 9/11/2025. He joined the Rescue Hook & Ladder Co. #1 on 10/9/1986 and was issued badge #1732.

Respectfully submitted September 18, 2025
by Fire Chief Brian Tween

MONTHLY DISTRICT SECRETARY REPORT

SEPTEMBER 2025

FIRE DISTRICT ELECTION

- Fire District Election resolutions have been prepared for the Board for tonight's meeting.
- Fire District Election materials will be updated and available on the Eastchester Fire District website (EastchesterNYFD.gov) early next week.
- Candidates for district office shall file written petitions subscribed by at least 25 qualified voters with the Secretary of the Fire District at 255 Main St, Eastchester, New York, no later than November 19, 2025 by 4:00 pm. Petition forms shall be made available by the Secretary upon request or can be found on the Eastchester Fire District website (EastchesterNYFD.gov) .

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Website and Notices

- Ongoing updates to the website.
- Will begin collaboration with Chief Tween and Assistant Chief Yozzo on an updated annual report for 2025 for the Eastchester Fire District.

FOIL OFFICER

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

RECORDS MANAGEMENT OFFICER

- **Ongoing Projects:** Continued work on organizing loose records and scanning projects.

OFFICE - GENERAL

- Prepared the OML document for the September 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

8.1 - 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- 9/18/2025 - \$421,570.79

Credit Card – 9/18/25 - \$3,084.30

Total: \$424,655.09

Motion by Chairman Ranellone, seconded by Commr. Carlo

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

Final: Motion Carried

8.2 - Adopt Proposed Budget 2026

BE IT RESOLVED: That the Board of Fire Commissioners adopts the proposed budget for 2026 with total Fire District expenditures of \$25,071,650 and a tax levy of \$24,990,650. The proposed tax increase is 4.8% and includes salary and benefits for 83 paid officers and firefighters. The proposed budget will exceed the tax cap. The Board will conduct a Public Budget Hearing on October 21, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. in the evening at Fire District Headquarters. At the conclusion of the Public Hearing, the Board may move for final budget adoption.

Motion by Commr. Carlo, seconded by Commr. Yankowski

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

Final: Motion Carried

OTHER BUSINESS:

Chairman Ranellone proceeded to read the following resolution:

9.1 - Three - Minute Public Comment Policy

A Resolution of the Board of Fire Commissioners of the Eastchester Fire District Establishing a Time Limit for Public Comment at Meetings

WHEREAS, the Board of Fire Commissioners of the Eastchester Fire District (the “Board”) recognizes the importance of public participation and values the input of residents and stakeholders during its meetings; and

WHEREAS, the Board seeks to ensure that meetings are conducted in an orderly, efficient, and respectful manner, allowing all interested parties a fair opportunity to be heard; and

WHEREAS, the Board is authorized under New York State law and the Open Meetings Law to adopt reasonable rules governing the conduct of its meetings, including the regulation of public comment;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Fire Commissioners hereby establishes the following policy regarding public comment at all regular and special meetings of the Board:

1. Time Limit: Each individual wishing to speak during the public comment portion of a meeting shall be permitted to speak for a maximum of three (3) minutes.
2. Extension of Time: Any individual who wishes to speak for longer than three (3) minutes must request and receive prior approval from the Board of Fire Commissioners, which may be granted at the discretion of the Board.
3. Applicability: This policy shall apply to all members of the public, including residents, property owners, and other stakeholders, and shall be enforced in a viewpoint-neutral manner.
4. Implementation: The Chairperson or presiding officer of the meeting shall be responsible for enforcing this policy and may use a timer or other means to ensure compliance.
5. Effective Date: This resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

Notes: Commr. Lore questioned the approval process for individuals requesting an extension of the public comment time limit. Commr. Carlo clarified that the resolution is intended to guide public participation.

Commr. Lore requested further clarification, asking who authored the policy. Commr. Carlo stated that it was prepared by the district attorney. Commr. Lore responded that he had spoken with the

district attorney, who, according to Lore, indicated the policy should be signed and presented on official letterhead. Commr. Carlo disagreed, and stated he had never heard of that requirement before.

Commr. Lore requested a conference call to discuss the matter further. Chairman Ranellone agreed and recommended tabling the item pending discussion with legal counsel during the conference call. The item was tabled.

Chairman Ranellone proceeded to read the following resolution:

9.2 - District Property Guidelines Policy

WHEREAS, the Eastchester Fire District (the “District”) is a duly organized fire district governed by a Board of Fire Commissioners pursuant to the laws of the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Fire Commissioners (the “Board”) is responsible for the management, control, and oversight of all real and personal property owned by the District; and

WHEREAS, the District’s property, including but not limited to fire stations, apparatus, equipment, and other assets, is held for the benefit of the public and must be used in a manner consistent with the District’s mission and applicable laws; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to establish clear guidelines to ensure that any use of District property by volunteer fire companies or other entities is subject to appropriate oversight and authorization;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Fire Commissioners of the Eastchester Fire District as follows:

1. **Use of District Property:** No volunteer fire company, fire department, or any other organization or individual shall use, occupy, or access any property, equipment, or facilities owned by the District without the prior written approval of the Board of Fire Commissioners.
2. **Approval Process:** Any request for use of District property must be submitted in writing to the Board, specifying the nature, purpose, date, and duration of the proposed use. The Board shall review such requests at a duly convened meeting and may approve, deny, or conditionally approve the request in its sole discretion.
3. **Enforcement:** Unauthorized use of District property shall be deemed a violation of this Resolution and may result in disciplinary action, revocation of privileges, or other remedies as permitted by law.
4. **Effective Date:** This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

Notes: Commr. Lore again noted the resolution lacked the attorney's signature and letterhead, and opposed moving forward. Chairman Ranellone moved to table the item pending discussion with legal counsel.

Chairman Ranellone proceeded to read the following resolution:

9.3 - Construction Management Firm - Station 3

The Eastchester Fire District herein referred to as 'The District' affirms its desire for the Chairman of the Board to negotiate and execute an Agreement between The District and Calgi Construction, located at White Plains, for design services for the district firehouse located at 20 Midland Avenue, Bronxville NY 10708. Said agreement will include, but not be limited to, the projects' scope, professional service fees, terms & conditions, and liability so long as the aforementioned agreement is approved by Fire District legal counsel.

Motion by Chairman. Ranellone, seconded by Commr. Cerasi

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

Final: Motion Carried

Chairman Ranellone proceeded to read the following resolution:

9.4 - Chief & Assistant Chief Contracts Revision

BE IT RESOLVED: That the Eastchester Board of Fire Commissioners approves the following amendments to the Chief and Assistant Chief Contracts: This Addendum is entered into by and between the Board of Fire Commissioners (the "Board") and Chief and Assistant Chief (the "Employee"), and shall be incorporated into and made part of the existing Employment Agreement.

1. Salary and Compensation

1. Effective January 1, 2025, the base salary shall be increased by four percent (4%), retroactive to said date.
2. Effective January 1, 2026, the base salary shall be increased by an additional four percent (4%).
3. Effective January 1, 2026, the Employee shall receive an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) stipend of three and one-half percent (3.5%) based on a fifth year (top paid) firefighter.
4. Effective January 1, 2025, the Employee shall receive a longevity increase of five percent (5%), retroactive to said date.

2. Leave and Holidays

5. The Employee shall be entitled to unlimited sick leave as set forth in the Memorandum of Agreement ("MOA").
6. Martin Luther King Jr. Day shall be added as the fourteenth (14th) recognized holiday.

3. Vacation

7. The Employee shall be entitled to seven (7) weeks, equal to thirty-five (35) days, of paid vacation per calendar year.
8. The Employee must use no fewer than twenty (20) vacation days in the same calendar year.
9. The remaining balance of up to fifteen (15) unused vacation days may be carried over into the next calendar year only with written notification from the Employee.
10. If the Employee does not provide such written notification, any unused vacation days not taken shall be liquidated and paid out in cash at the end of the calendar year.
11. In the event of the Employee's retirement, any unused vacation days shall be fully paid out to the Employee.

4. Miscellaneous

Except as expressly modified by this Addendum, all other terms, conditions, and provisions of the Employment Agreement shall remain in full force and effect.

Motion by Chairman. Ranellone, seconded by Commr. Yankowski

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

Final: Motion Carried

Chairman Ranellone proceeded to read the following resolution:

9.5 - New Incident Reporting Software

BE IT RESOLVED: That the Eastchester Board of Fire Commissioners authorizes Chief Brian Tween to make the purchase for New Incident Reporting Software with Alpine Software for one-year costs for a total of \$5,995.

Motion by Chairman. Ranellone, seconded by Commr. Yankowski

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

Final: Motion Carried

Additional Notes: Chief Tween clarified that the company he is recommending is Alpine Software, which is the lowest cost by far and their product is Red NMX System with a one year cost of \$5,995 for the first year.

Chairman Ranellone proceeded to read the following resolution:

9.6 - 911 Wear Inc. - EMT Training

BE IT RESOLVED: That the Eastchester Board of Fire Commissioners authorizes Chief Brian Tween to sign a contract with 911Wear Inc. to provide the EMT refresher training for the District's members for a total sum of \$21,000 for the year 2026.

Motion by Chairman. Ranellone, seconded by Commr. Yankowski

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

Chairman Ranellone proceeded to read the following resolution:

9.7 - Replacement Fire Headquarters Lower Garage Door

BE IT RESOLVED: That the Eastchester Board of Fire Commissioners authorizes Chief Brian Tween to replace the Fire Headquarters Lower Garage Door using the United Overhead Door Corp. in Mamaroneck, NY quote for \$5,763.00

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

Additional Notes: Commr. Lore asked if the garage door was motorized, which Chief Tween affirmed.

Chairman Ranellone proceeded to read the following resolution:

9.8 - Fire District Election - 2025

RESOLUTION APPOINTING BOARD OF ELECTIONS CHAIRMAN

WHEREAS, Section 175-a of the Town Law provides for a system of registration for Fire District Elections; and

WHEREAS, a register of eligible Fire District voters must be prepared prior to the Fire District Election; and

WHEREAS, such register shall be prepared from names of persons who have registered with the Westchester County Board of Elections;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the following resident electors of the Eastchester Fire District are hereby appointed to constitute the Eastchester Fire District BOARD OF ELECTIONS for the 2025 Annual Fire District Election:

CHAIRPERSON OF ELECTIONS

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Fire District's CHAIRPERSON OF ELECTION be compensated in the amount of \$100 for their services; that the Board of Elections be compensated in the amount of \$100 for their services in preparing the registration records; and that the appointed Election Inspectors for the Fire District Election to be held on Tuesday, December 9th, 2025 be compensated in the amount of \$100.

LIST OF INSPECTORS – ANNUAL FIRE DISTRICT ELECTION

The County of Westchester Board of Elections will supply a list of approved election inspectors to utilize the electronic voting machines on Election Day.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in case any of the members appointed herein are unable or refuse to assume or perform the duties required of them, this Board of Fire Commissioners or Election Chairman may appoint alternates who are resident electors and re-assign location as needed.

RESOLUTION FOR PREPARATION OF REGISTRATION ROLLS

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Fire Commissioners of the Eastchester Fire District, having heretofore appointed a Board of Elections to comply with the registration and voting procedures set forth in Section 175 and 175-a of the Town Law, does hereby designate on or about the 24th day of November 2025, between the hours of 1:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. as the date and time of the meeting of the Board of Elections to prepare registration rolls for the Annual Election of the Eastchester Fire District. The Fire District Election will be held on Tuesday, December 9th, 2025, between the hours of 2:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. at the following locations:

Leroy Gregory American Legion Post #979, 40 Bell Road, Scarsdale

Tuckahoe Community Center, 71 Columbus Avenue, Tuckahoe, New York

Bronxville Village Hall, 200 Pondfield Road, Bronxville, New York

Eastchester Public Library, 11 Oakridge Pl, Eastchester, New York

LEGAL NOTICE

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a Legal Notice informing the resident electors of the Eastchester Fire District of this meeting be published one time by the Fire District Secretary in the official newspapers of the Eastchester Fire District between; November 5 - 12, 2025.

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF ANNUAL ELECTION

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Annual Election of the Eastchester Fire District will take place on Tuesday, December 9, 2025, between the hours of 2:00 pm and 9:00 pm at the following locations for the purpose of electing one (1) fire district commissioner for a five-year term commencing January 1, 2026, and ending on December 31, 2030.

Only those persons who have registered with the Westchester County Board of Elections on or before the 17th day of November 2025, and have resided in the Fire District for at least thirty days prior to the date of the election, shall be eligible to vote.

Candidates for district office shall file written petitions subscribed by at least 25 qualified voters with the Secretary of the Fire District at 255 Main St, Eastchester, New York no later than **November 19, 2025 by 4:00 pm. Petition forms shall be made available by the Secretary upon request.**

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the Board of Fire Commissioners has divided the Fire District into ten election districts, and that the locations of such election districts and the polling place for each such election district is as follows:

No. 1 – Shall consist of Town Election District Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 27 and 34, and the polling place shall be the Leroy Gregory Post 979, 40 Bell Rd, Scarsdale, NY.

No. 2 – Shall consist of Town Election District Nos. 5, 23, 29 and 36, and the polling place shall be the Leroy Gregory Post 979, 40 Bell Rd, Scarsdale, NY.

No. 3 – Shall consist of Town Election District Nos. 6, 8, 26, 30 & 38, and the polling place shall be the Eastchester Public Library, 11 Oakridge Pl, Eastchester, NY.

No. 4 – Shall consist of Town Election District Nos. 7, 9 and 39, and the polling place shall be the Eastchester Public Library, 11 Oakridge Pl, Eastchester, NY.

No. 5 – Shall consist of Town Election District Nos. 24, 25 28 and 37, and the polling place shall be the Eastchester Public Library, 11 Oakridge Pl, Eastchester, NY.

No. 6 – Shall consist of Town Election District Nos. 10, 11, 32 and 33, and the polling place shall be the Tuckahoe Community Center, 71 Columbus Ave, Tuckahoe, NY.

No. 7 – Shall consist of Town Election District Nos. 12, 13 and 14, and the polling place shall be the Tuckahoe Community Center, 71 Columbus Ave, Tuckahoe, NY.

No. 8 – Shall consist of Town Election District Nos. 15, 31 and 35, and the polling place shall be Eastchester Public Library, 11 Oakridge Pl, Eastchester, NY.

No. 9 – Shall consist of Town Election District Nos. 16, 17 and 18, and the polling place shall be the Bronxville Village Hall, 200 Pondfield Rd, Bronxville, NY.

No. 10 – Shall consist of Town Election District Nos. 19, 20, 21 and 22, and the polling place shall be the Bronxville Village Hall, 200 Pondfield Rd, Bronxville, NY.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the Board of Fire Commissioners has provided for absentee ballots for fire district elections. An applicant for an absentee ballot shall submit an application setting forth:

(1) his or her name and residence address, including the street and number, if any, or town and rural delivery route, if any;

(2) that he or she is or will be, on the day of the election, a qualified voter of the district in which he or she resides in that he or she is or will be, on such date, over eighteen years of age, a citizen of the United States and has or will have resided in the district for thirty days next preceding such date;

(3) that he or she is registered in the town;

(4) that he or she will be unable to appear to vote in person on the day of the election for which the absentee ballot is requested because he or she is, or will be on such day:

(a) a patient in a hospital, or unable to appear personally at the polling place on such day because of illness or physical disability or

(b) because his or her duties, occupation or business will require him or her to be outside of the county of his or her residence on such day,

(c) because he or she will be on vacation outside the county of his or her residence on each day; or,

(d) absent from his or her voting residence because he or she is detained in jail awaiting action by a grand jury or awaiting trial or is confined in prison after conviction for an offense other than a felony; and

(5) All other information as required by law.

Such application must be received by the district secretary at least **seven days** before the election if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter, or the day before the election, if the ballot is to be delivered personally to the voter or his or her agent.

**BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
FIRE DISTRICT, TOWN OF EASTCHESTER, NEW YORK**

**PAUL RANELONE
CHAIRMAN
EASTCHESTER BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS**

**RESOLUTION TO USE AND TRANSPORT WESTCHESTER COUNTY
ELECTRONIC VOTING MACHINES**

The Fire Board Chairman is authorized to execute all documents provided by the Westchester County Board of Election and authorized vendors for the use and transportation of the electronic voting machines for the December 9, 2025, annual Fire Commissioners election.

RESOLUTION FOR SWEARING-IN CEREMONY

Polling election officials who come to the swearing-in ceremony at the Tuckahoe Community Center on Monday, December 8 at 6 pm will be paid the amount of \$50.00. Co-election officials will be paid \$25.00 for setting up or closing down and polling officials' pay on Election day will be \$100.00.

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

Additional Notes: Commr. Lore asked about the pay rate for election inspector shifts, and Secretary Isang Smith confirmed that it is a flat rate of \$100, regardless of the number of shifts worked.

Chairman Ranellone proceeded to read the following resolution:

9.9 - CivicPlus Contract Renewal

BE IT RESOLVED: That the Eastchester Board of Fire Commissioners approves to renew a contract for Annual Recurring Website Services with CivicPlus for a total of \$9,536.80

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

Final: Motion Carried

Chairman Ranellone proceeded to read the following resolution:

9.10 - Training Reimbursement - Lt. Domenick DiRienzo

BE IT RESOLVED: That the Eastchester Board of Fire Commissioners approves to reimburse Lieutenant Domenick DiRienzo for his attendance at the Fire Officer 4 program in November 2025 through Bucks County Community College for an overall total of \$550.

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

Final: Motion Carried

Chairman Ranellone proceeded to read the following resolution:

9.11 - Training Reimbursement - FF Nicholas Genova

BE IT RESOLVED: That the Eastchester Board of Fire Commissioners approves to reimburse Firefighter Nicholas Genova for his attendance at the Live Fire Training class offered through the New York State Association of Fire Chiefs for an overall total of \$245.

Notes: Commr. Carlo asked Treasurer Hedstrom whether the request would fall under the \$5,500 benefits category revised in the contract. He noted that his understanding of the contract revision was that members would no longer be reimbursed for expenses incurred independently.

Commr. Carlo believed that the available funds for reimbursement had already been exhausted. Treasurer Hedstrom confirmed that under the prior contract, up to \$1,500 was

allocated for reimbursement, and one firefighter had previously received \$990, leaving a balance of \$510. However, since the new contract has been signed, that reimbursement provision was removed and would not apply retroactively.

Commr. Carlo asked if anyone had been reimbursed recently. Treasurer Hedstrom stated that reimbursements typically stayed under \$1,500, but under the new agreement, such reimbursements would no longer continue. Instead, members may work with the Chief to attend trainings.

Chief Tween clarified that members could no longer be reimbursed for taking classes but could attend as part of their training days. Treasurer Hedstrom added that the budget for training days had already been exhausted for the year, though future participation could be reviewed.

Commr. Lore asked who would be responsible for payment. Treasurer Hedstrom clarified that firefighters would pay for the class but would not be reimbursed but would receive eight hours of pay for attending the class, in line with the updated policy.

Commr. Lore and Union President Joseph Costanzo agreed to discuss the matter further. Costanzo suggested discussion take place in a different forum. The Board voted to table the item regarding Firefighter Genova's request. Treasurer Hedstrom noted that if Genova wishes to take the class, he may do so and provide proof of attendance.

Item tabled.

9.12 - Chester Heights Gong

Commr. Cerasi discussed the issue of the Chester Heights gong, suggesting to the Board that they get in touch with the resident who had previously inquired about it, or that it be taken down due to concerns about its condition and potential liability. Commr. Cerasi stated that the gong has become an eyesore.

Commr. Lore invited Mr. Visci up to discuss his activities to address the gong issue. Mr. Visci stated that the Board failed to take action on the gong several months ago. Mr. Visci explained that the original proposals were now invalid due to the time elapsed, but was working on updated proposals, and the volunteers intend to proceed with repairs. Mr. Visci confirmed that the volunteers will cover the cost of the work.

Commr. Cerasi asked about ownership of the gong. Mr. Visci stated that it belongs to the union. Assistant Chief Yozzo asked about the repair proposals, and clarified the district required three proposals. Assistant Chief Yozzo suggested that the volunteers should move forward with one proposal if they are paying for it.

Further discussion took place among Commrs. Cerasi, Assistant Chief Yozzo, and Commr. Lore regarding the gong. Mr. Visci confirmed a date for the repair work. Commr. Cerasi again raised

concerns about liability if someone were to get injured, asking whether the gong is on town or district property.

Commr. Lore stated that the work should have been completed last year and agreed that it was time to move forward. He noted that the volunteers would handle the repairs. Chairman Ranellone suggested laying the gong down temporarily so it does not pose a hazard and would not affect the existing stand. Commr. Carlo requested deferring action until ownership of the gong is confirmed, asking whether it belongs to the district, town, or union.

Commr. Cerasi recommended consulting the district attorney regarding liability concerns. Chairman Ranellone concluded by requesting Assistant Chief Yozzo to remove the bell the following morning.

Chairman Ranellone shared that the next meeting would be on Tuesday, October 21st, 2025 at 7:00 PM at Station 1 - Fire Headquarters.

Local 916 Comments

Union President Joseph Costanzo congratulated union members Gerardo Luongo, Gerard Maiello, as well as William George, who retired over the past few months. He thanked them for their service to the district and the union. Costanzo also wished the three new firefighter recruits the best of luck at the academy, noting that the program has been extended to 21 weeks. Costanzo expressed appreciation to the Board for hiring the new members. Costanzo concluded by thanking all five Commissioners for their volunteer service and the amount of time and effort they dedicate to the district.

Public Comments

Mike Parici (16 Lockwood Avenue) asked about the time limit for public comment and how the public would be informed if the total time were limited. He also inquired about the process for submitting written comments and how agenda items are introduced. Commr. Carlo responded that the Board would put something together.

Mr. Parici asked if the Board saluted the flag. Chief Tween confirmed they saluted the flag at the opening of the meeting at 6:45 PM, then entered into executive session. Mr. Parici then raised concerns about the Chester Heights gong, noting that caution tape had been placed around it and there was increased activity in the area. Chief Tween advised that cones will be set up for safety. Assistant Chief Yozzo confirmed the plan to lay the gong flat to prevent hazards.

A discussion followed among the Commissioners regarding liability and responsibility for the gong. Commr. Lore expressed concern about the proposed district property guidelines and the potential liability and its impact on volunteers. Commr. Cerasi disagreed with Commr. Lore's comments, leading to a brief argument between the two Commissioners.

Chairman Ranellone asked Commissioners Lore and Cerasi to conclude their argument, emphasizing the importance of unity.

Mr. Tony Fiore of Tuckahoe suggested that, in future meetings, any resolutions involving the district's attorney be provided in writing and signed to help meetings run more smoothly. Chief Tween clarified that this has not been the district's practice, noting that Board members may introduce resolutions for a vote without needing an attorney to sign off. He added that the matter may have been a misunderstanding. A brief discussion followed regarding the attorney's role.

Mr. Fiore also wished the new recruits good luck at the fire academy.

Mr. Tom Visci approached the podium again and addressed Assistant Chief Yozzo by his first name. Assistant Chief Yozzo corrected him, stating that he should be addressed by rank if the volunteers consider themselves part of the department. Mr. Visci then asked what time the gong would be taken down the following day. Assistant Chief Yozzo replied that work would begin at 9:00 a.m., and Mr. Visci requested that photos be taken of the process.

Chairman Ranellone then asked if there were any additional public comments.

Commissioner Comments

Chairman Ranellone proceeded to read his prepared 9/11 statement:

From Wednesday, September 12th, 2001, through Sunday, September 16th, the Eastchester Fire Department sent a fully manned engine and ladder company to cover Bronx firehouses or to standby at Yonkers Raceway for deployment. I was at Station 1 and remember feeling worried for these mutual aid companies, not knowing what might happen to them.

On Thursday, September 13th, Mount Vernon Fire Department Local 107, in conjunction with the Westchester Professional Firefighters Coalition, was able to contact officials in New York City in order to organize a relief effort. After getting approval to do so, they contacted all the professional firefighters unions in Westchester. In a matter of a few hours, 120 firefighters from all over Westchester met at MVFD Station 3. Included in that number were 10 firefighters from Eastchester. Two EFD members were able to get 3 buses at no cost.

Shortly before 7:00 pm, the 3 buses left Mount Vernon with a state police escort to Manhattan. Almost from the time we turned onto the West Side Highway, people lined both sides of the street with signs and flags, many thanking us and cheering. Signs read, "God Bless You" and "You're Our Heroes." The buses parked off of Hudson Street on Beach Street. Upon arrival, all firefighters were organized into 10 man companies with either a lieutenant or captain in charge. I took command of the Eastchester contingent.

We walked from the buses to the staging area, one block from what has become known as Ground Zero. Along the way, people on the sidewalks clapped and thanked us, offered us water, food, gloves, masks, and anything else we might need to do our work.

Walking along we could see and smell the smoke from what was once the World Trade Center. At the staging area, we saw an engine and ladder truck on a side street. The truck's aerial was mangled

and bent over the cab. The engine was unrecognizable only by the front part of the cab where the driver and officer would sit. Everything else had been crushed to about 5 feet high. On the officers door, someone had written in memory of the Lt. and firefighters who had apparently all been killed.

Ranellone mentioned that engine and firetruck are in the 9/11 memorial museum now

After getting permission to proceed, we passed a parking lot filled with burnt out cars. We stood in front of 3 World Financial Center, now used as a rest and rehab station. Construction workers cut the fallen North Bridge in preparation to move it out of the way in order to gain access to the main area of debris behind it with heavy equipment. We walked between 3 and 4 World Financial Center to the front entrance on West Street. From this point, we got an unobstructed view of the massive destruction. From this entrance to 2 World Trade Center, a distance of about 400 feet, were steel box beams lying parallel about 3 feet apart on top of 10-15 feet of concrete and other pulverized debris.

There were several hundred rescuers in about a dozen bucket brigades removing debris from the 7 story stump of the tower and passing it down to the front of the Financial Center where it was dumped and the empty buckets returned to the front of the line. Iron workers cut up steel beams which would be passed down the line and thrown on the pile. We filled in on several of these lines, balancing ourselves on the box beams. In some areas you could look through the rubble and see the remains of a fire truck or ambulance. Several of our firefighters attempted to tunnel beneath the box beams in order to look for victims below us. Every so often, someone would yell to be quiet. The generators and power tools would be shut down and everyone would stop working and just listen for any sounds from the debris pile. After a minute or so, work would continue. Looking up and around from the middle of Ground Zero, gave a clear view of the destruction. Every window facing the Twin Towers had been blown out and chunks of buildings had been gouged out from falling debris.

The sides of the remaining buildings were covered in a thin coat of powder that could be seen floating in the air through the glow of flood lights. It was several inches thick for many blocks around the site. Despite the hard work early Friday morning, it got noticeably cooler and about 2:00 am, it started to rain, a drizzle at first. Suddenly, it started getting heavy making footing treacherous and since we were working in t-shirts, the rain just made us wetter and more uncomfortable.

An FDNY chief officer called off operations and our chief officers decided it was time to go back, so we picked up our gear and headed back to the buses. On the buses, we were tired, cold, and wet. There was little if any talking on the return trip to Mount Vernon. I began to wonder what we had accomplished by going down there. We moved perhaps a couple of tons of debris, a literal drop in the bucket of estimated 1.2 million tons of rubble. We had saved no lives, only one body had been recovered. Yet for 8 hours we had been willing participants of a piece of history, something people will talk about long after we are gone.

We were the first group of firefighters to go down to Ground Zero but not the last. Two shifts of Westchester firefighters, Eastchester included, per day responded to the World Trade site over the course of the next several days. The only reason this effort was discontinued was the FDNY went to a 24 hour schedule with half of their personnel working at any one time. Meaning, they had enough manpower to send to the site and man their firehouses.

Whatever needed to be done, or whatever we were asked to do, we would not have hesitated on this new day of infamy, September 11, 2001.

In addition to myself, FF Quinton Baker, FF Joseph Pinto, FF Steven Ranellone, FF James Rockhill, FF Ken Simonides, FF Glen Strawbridge, FF Brian Tween, FF Vincent Spadaro, FF William Wiegelman also went down that day. Starting on September 11th, and continuing for days, weeks and months afterwards, ordinary people, organizations and businesses donated money, food, water and clothing to victims and rescuers. A couple of weeks later, Local 916 had a fill the boot fund raised at the intersection of Mill Road and WPR and collected over \$30,000 for the FDNY widows and children's fund.

One week after 9/11, an estimated 6,000 people filled the property outside Town Hall for a memorial service with political representation from Eastchester, Tuckahoe, and Bronxville. The clergy of almost every faith that has membership in the Town offered words of blessings and comfort to all. The 3 police departments, the FD and EVAC were all well represented. Weeks later, the FD and police department played a charity basketball game. Local 916 sponsored the coalition at the funeral for Fire Marshall and Tuckahoe resident Ronald Bucca at Concordia College, which is now Iona University.

Members attended numerous funerals. Thanks to retired FDNY Lt. Bill Spinelli and as a direct result of our sales of the FDNY 343 hats, George Glover Jr and I were invited to attend the FDNY Memorial Services held inside Madison Square Garden in October 2002. Although it was a cold and rainy day about 30,000 firefighters from across the country and around the world marched in a parade prior to the services. It is amazing what can be accomplished when people put aside their differences, get together and work for the common good.

Chairman Ranellone continued by showing a picture where it was taken in first week of the 9/11 site.

A moment of silence followed in memory of the passing of volunteer firefighter Robert Sullivan.

Adjournment – With no further business to discuss, Chairman Ranellone made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

**EASTCHESTER FIRE DISTRICT
MINUTES OF THE EASTCHESTER BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
SEPTEMBER 18, 2025**

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

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