

Coldenham Fire District
Board of Fire Commissioners
May 11, 2015

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners of the Coldenham Fire District was held on May 11, 2015 at the Coldenham Fire House. Commissioner Besser opened the meeting with the pledge to the flag.

Roll Call

Commissioners present: Tim Besser, Joe Keenan, Anita Grecco & Warren Decker. Wayne Jacobowitz arrived late.

Also present: Mary Keenan, Secretary
Linda Miller, Treasurer

Acceptance of Minutes

A motion was made by Commissioner Grecco and seconded by Commissioner Keenan to dispense with the reading of the monthly meeting minutes of April 13, 2015 and accept them as written. Unanimous approval (4 ayes, 0 nays) was received by those in attendance. Motion carried.

Communications

- We received a card from Chaplain Randazzo thanking the Commissioners and Chief for allowing him to use the truck and attend the Chaplains' conference.
- We received a notice from Provident Agency, Inc. (which provides insurance through a broker network to thousands of firefighters, emergency medical technicians, first responders, government employees, and others,) advising us of their privacy policy.
- We received a letter from the American Red Cross advising us of their ability to provide Red Cross First Aid, CPR, and AED Certification.
- We received a flyer from Pinsky Law Group offering The Fire Department Law & Management Resource Manual (2015 New York State Edition) at a cost of \$275 plus \$15 shipping for each manual.
- We received an invitation from the Association of Fire Districts of Orange County to an Officers Recognition Dinner to be held at Colden Manor on June 12th, 2015 at 6:30. Cost is \$50 per District Officer and Guest. Reservations are needed by June 5th. Point of contact is Anita Grecco.
- We received the 2015 Volunteer Fire Assistance Grant Application which is due by June 30, 2015. Paperwork was given to Chief Draiss.
- We received correspondence from Ambit Energy advising us that we saved 2.65% and Treasurer Miller received the district's rebate check for \$9.06.
- We received correspondence from Central Hudson offering to upgrade inefficient lighting systems to light emitting diode technology, or LED.
- The secretary received a returned physical letter for Theron Adkins. She will make another attempt to mail it to the member.
- We received our monthly LOSAP investment statements, auto pay and payouts etc. The account balance as of April 30, 2015 was \$1,003,099.74.

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Commissioner Jacobowitz joined the meeting at 7:42PM.

Lawn & Grounds Bids

Commissioner Decker received two bids, one at his residence and one at the firehouse. Both are from Belly Flop Industries, LTD and are exactly the same. Copy of bid is attached with non-collusion statement and certificate of liability.

Hall Requests

Coldenham Ladies Auxiliary on December 13, 2015 for Children's' Christmas party from 10 AM to 4 PM.

A motion was made by Commissioner Decker and seconded by Commissioner Jacobowitz to approve the request. Unanimous approval (5 ayes, 0 nays) was received by those in attendance. Motion carried.

Public Discussion

Captain Kathy Gasperetti asked if the Ladies Auxiliary would be allowed to have wine at their Paint & Pastry event on May 31. After some discussion, the board denied the request to have wine at this event. It was agreed that they would like to revisit this topic at another time.

Committee Reports

Space Committee and Surplus List: This continues to be a work in progress.

Safety Committee: Nothing to report at this time.

Mack Restoration Committee: Nothing to report at this time.

Building Repair Committee: Commissioner Besser would like to add replacing the upstairs bathroom door handle as it doesn't lock properly. Commissioner Grecco asked Commissioner Jacobowitz if he could be at the firehouse tomorrow by 5:45 pm so they could meet with the gentleman about finishing the table and chair closet. Commissioner Grecco will also meet with Mr. Ruggerio tomorrow to discuss the electrical projects that need to be addressed. Commissioner Grecco would like permission to buy the flowers for the barrels that go in the front of the bays. Commissioner Besser stated that there is a drill tomorrow and perhaps the attendees can get the barrels set up for Commissioner Grecco and Colleen Schneider to plant the flowers. Chief Draiss didn't think that would be a problem. Commissioner Besser purchased two American Flags, one for outside and one for the office.

Truck Committee: Commissioner Keenan advised the board that a few members of the truck committee will be attending Harrisburg and he will schedule a meeting after they return.

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Old Business

Physicals: Commissioner Besser advised the board that 2 physicals were completed since our last meeting. Nineteen members are still on the list. Commissioner Besser will call Dr Basri's office tomorrow to find out when we will be billed for this year's physicals.

Driver Qualification/Active Duty Criteria: The next tentative work session is for May 30, 2015 from 10AM to 2PM.

LOSAP/Service Awards: Commissioner Keenan advised the board that all the paperwork was sent in and he didn't received anything back.

Kick plate for the Trophy Case: Commissioner Besser just has to finish the stain on it.

Fuel Audit: Commissioner Keenan will have the fuel audit through December 2014 for next month's meeting.

Kaba Keys and Locks: Commissioner Besser will get with Commissioner Jacobowitz to update him on any necessary information.

Replace (2) 2008 Chief Trucks: Commissioner Keenan challenged everyone to come up with a plan. No agreement was made at this time. The board will return to this topic later in the meeting.

Life insurance for Active Members: Commissioner Keenan stated that the necessary information was gathered and we are just waiting to receive quotes. Commissioner Besser suggested that we look into altering the LOSAP program to either increase the monthly output or increase the longevity. He would like to have quotes for increasing the monthly amount of \$15 to \$20 per month for 25 years or \$15 per month for 40 years.

New Business

Capital Asset Policy: Treasurer Miller explained that Vannacore wants us to report, in one total, all the assets over \$20,000 with repairs included. Our auditor also wants copies of all invoices for all big purchases and any additional items that go with that purchase. Commissioner Besser stated that we can get clarification when we meet with our auditors for last year's audit.

Lawn and Grounds: A motion was made by Commissioner Jacobowitz and seconded by Commissioner Decker to accept the proposal from Belly Flop Industries, LTD for \$150 per mowing with weed control. Unanimous approval (5 ayes, 0 nays) was received by those in attendance. Motion carried. NOTE: Secretary received a copy of the bid for the minutes.

Blacktop: The blacktop needs attention. Commissioner Jacobowitz will get estimates.

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Intersection of Coldenham Road and Berea Road: Commissioner Besser would like to contact the county about the intersection of Coldenham Road and Berea Road. He is going to draft a letter to Legislator Mike Anagnostakis.

Chief's Report

Membership

- New members: 0
- Qualified drivers: 0
- New Drivers Requested: 0
- Drivers dropped: 0
- Physicals: On going
- Members passing probation: 0
- Members reinstated: 0
- Members dropped: 0
- Social Members dropped: 0
- Status switch: 0
- Members suspended: 0
- Members resigned: 0

Further Information from the Chief

- Chief Draiss advised that he has 5 people (Wanda Besser, Karen Morse, John Keenan, Brian Randazzo and Randy Haylock) that would like to go to Harrisburg on Friday and possibly two that would like to go on Saturday. He would like approval to use 270 and possibly the Chief vehicle for transportation. Commissioner Besser added that in the past, the district picked up breakfast and Dinner for those attending. The board agreed. Commissioner Besser will take care of the admission. A motion was made by Commissioner Keenan and seconded by Commissioner Decker to approve the use of the district vehicles. Unanimous approval (5 ayes, 0 nays) was received by those in attendance. Motion carried.
- Chief Draiss received a letter from AGL stating that the tank expired on April 30. The cost is \$166.50 per cylinder for three cylinders for a three year term. A motion was made by Commissioner Keenan and seconded by Commissioner Jacobowitz to approve the expenditure of \$499.50 to renew the lease. Unanimous approval (5 ayes, 0 nays) was received by those in attendance. Motion carried.
- Chief Draiss has 1 person (Brian Randazzo) that wants to attend the EMT class which starts on June 4 and runs through August 20. There is a mandatory \$105 background check and drug screening fee. The book costs another \$260. The class is at Dutchess Community College at a cost of \$700. Chief Draiss or Chaplain Randazzo will see if NY State will reimburse the district. A motion was made by Commissioner Besser and seconded by Commissioner Jacobowitz to spend \$1065 to send Chaplain Randazzo to EMT class. Unanimous approval (5 ayes, 0 nays) was received by those in attendance. Motion carried.
- Chief Draiss said the MCI Drill went well. He thanked the board for the refreshments.

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- Chief Draiss advised the board that there is a problem with the pressure washer. Commissioner Besser asked Commissioner Grecco to ask Ruggerio to fix the valve. Commissioner Jacobowitz said he would take care of it.
- Chief Draiss would like to put two portable radios in 206 (the brush truck) and two in 270 (the pick-up truck). He thinks they are about \$400 a piece. A motion was made by Commissioner Decker and seconded by Commissioner Jacobowitz to allow the Chief to spend up to \$2000 to purchase 4 portables and chargers. Unanimous approval (5 ayes, 0 nays) was received by those in attendance. Motion carried.
- Chief Draiss would like to offer bail out training sometime in July.
- Chief Draiss would like to purchase Fire Police Vests. They run about \$50 a piece, maybe a little more for the bigger sizes. He would like to request up to \$1000 to purchase these as they will be going to the Harrisburg show soon. He would like to purchase between 10 and 16 vests. A motion was made by Commissioner Jacobowitz and seconded by Commissioner Grecco to allow him to spend up to \$1000 to purchase the vests he needs. Unanimous approval (5 ayes, 0 nays) was received by those in attendance. Motion carried.

Further Information from the Commissioners

Commissioner Keenan noticed that the demo saws came with composite blades. He asked the Chief if he would like to get mega tooth monster blades. The Chief agreed and will look at Harrisburg. Chief Draiss advised the board that he has a couple of demo saws that are surplus. Commissioner Besser asked that they be posted so we could dispose of them at next meeting. After some discussion, it was agreed that the Chief will make up a list of surplus items for next meeting so all can be posted.

Commissioner Decker reminded everyone that after using this room, the door should be pulled shut and locked. He also asked about furniture for this room. Commissioner Besser said that he will have pricing on furniture for next month.

Commissioner Keenan wanted to apologize to the Chief if he insulted him.

Information from the Treasurer/Secretary

Treasurer Miller received the tentative taxable values from the Town of Newburgh and a list of all the PILOT properties and how much they pay.

Treasurer Miller asked if the board is going to pay the tax abatements before we get new blacktop. Commissioner Besser replied that we will pay them when we legally have to pay them. She just wants it noted that she's asked.

Treasurer Miller informed the board that she would need a safe for the Secretary/Treasurer office. She further stated that she would like to get rid of the lateral filing cabinets and get new file cabinets. She also mentioned that she learned that there is a standard for how long records need to be held and thought a lot of paperwork in that office can probably be destroyed. Discussion ensued and Commissioner Besser said that the office could probably use a shredder, but if we were to get rid out outdated paperwork, we would probably have

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to contract someone to do that on site.

Approved Expenditures

Vests	\$ 1000.00
Portables and Charges	2000.00
Oxygen System Renewal	499.50
Harrisburg	breakfast and dinner for attendees
EMT Class	1065.00
Spring Clean-Up (Belly Flop)	1200.00

Public Discussion

Anthony Trapini mentioned that a spring clean-up is needed and he estimates the cost not to exceed \$1200. Commissioner Jacobowitz made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Keenan to have Belly Flop do a spring clean-up on the district property for a cost not to exceed \$1200. Unanimous approval (5 ayes, 0 nays) was received by those in attendance. Motion carried.

Executive Session: Commissioner Decker made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Jacobowitz to go into executive session to discuss a personnel issue. Approval (4 ayes, 1 nay) was received by those in attendance. Motion carried.

Meeting reconvened at 9:37 PM. Commissioner Besser stated that there was nothing to report from the Executive Session.

Hydraulic hose: Chief Draiss advised the board that he bought a hydraulic hose for a cost of \$1500 plus installation.

Chief Cars: More discussion ensued. Commissioner Besser has a copy of a bid for a Chief's car, an Expedition, for a fire company in Columbia County. Commissioner Keenan said their cost was about \$49,000 but they had some additional options. Without the additional options, it would bring it down to \$45,000, which is about \$10,000 more than the Explorer. Commissioner Grecco made a motion subject to permissive referendum to expend up to \$100,000 from the Capital Reserve for Firefighting Equipment which has a current balance of \$665,365.82 for the purchase of two command vehicles. Commissioner Keenan seconded the motion. Unanimous approval (5 ayes, 0 nays) was received by those in attendance. Motion carried.

Bills Signed

Commissioner Decker made a motion to pay bills if found correct, seconded by Commissioner Grecco. Unanimous approval (5 ayes, 0 nays) by those in attendance was received. Motion carried.

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Adjournment

Since all regular business was completed, Commissioner Keenan moved to adjourn the meeting seconded by Commissioner Decker. Unanimous approval (5 ayes, 0 nays) by those in attendance was received. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary E. Keenan
Secretary