

Coldenham Fire District  
Board of Fire Commissioners  
December 7, 2015

**Call to Order**

The regular meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners of the Coldenham Fire District was held on December 7, 2015 at the Coldenham Fire House. Commissioner Besser opened the meeting with the pledge to the flag. A moment of silence was observed in honor of John Olsen.

**Roll Call**

Commissioners present: Tim Besser, Joe Keenan, Anita Grecco, Warren Decker. Wayne Jacobowitz arrived at 7:48 PM.

Also present: Mary Keenan, Secretary  
Linda Miller, Treasurer  
Frank Draiss, Chief  
Matt Hunt, 1<sup>st</sup> Assistant Chief  
Barbara Gasperetti, 2<sup>nd</sup> Assistant Chief

**Acceptance of Minutes**

A motion was made by Commissioner Grecco and seconded by Commissioner Decker to dispense with the reading of the monthly meeting minutes of November 9, 2015 and accept them as corrected. Unanimous approval (5 ayes, 0 nays) was received by those in attendance. Motion carried. (Correction on page 6, "Treasurer Miller advised the board that 2<sup>nd</sup> Assistant Chief Barbara Gasperetti had a \$5,000 budget for Fire Prevention. She spent \$4322.85 which left her under budget by \$1177.15." Should be ...under budget by \$677.15.)

**Communications**

- We received a letter from President Keith Aigner with the list of elected officers.
- We received the annual dues billing of \$100 and commissioner's survey for 2016 from the Association of Fire Districts of Orange County. Treasurer Miller will complete the survey and remit our dues.
- We received a letter of intent to review books from Ronald Clum.
- We received a letter from the Town of Montgomery advising us of a charge back in the amount of \$175.17.
- Commissioner Keenan stated that we also received our monthly LOSAP investment statements, auto pay and payouts etc. The monthly balance as of the end of November was \$1, 002,868.81.

**Hall Requests**

- Colden Park Homeowner's Association on January 13, 2016 at 7:30 PM for a meeting
- The Fife & Drum Corps on July 9, 2016 for a 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Party

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

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**Bid for Surplus Tires:** A bid was received from Tom Kaiser in the amount of \$40 for all four tires. A motion was made by Commissioner Keenan and seconded by Commissioner Decker to accept the bid of \$40 for all four surplus snow tires submitted by Tom Kaiser. Unanimous approval (5 ayes, 0 nays) was received by those in attendance. Motion carried.

**Public Discussion**

None.

**Committee Reports**

**Space Committee and Surplus List:** Nothing to report at this time.

**Safety Committee:** Chief Draiss advised the board that there was nothing to report at this time.

**Mack Restoration Committee:** Commissioner Keenan needs to get another price for tires. He also suggested that budgeting needs to be looked at from the District's standpoint.

**Building Repair Committee:** Commissioner Jacobowitz stated there was nothing to report at this time. Commissioner Grecco advised the board that the downstairs bathroom was fixed.

**Truck Committee:** Commissioner Keenan advised the board that they met with two representatives from Sutphen and Spartan already and will schedule with KME and Seagraves after the New Year.

**Old Business**

**Physicals:** Nothing new to report on this subject. Commissioner Besser will get the form to give to prospective members so the proper service is completed to the Chiefs.

**Driver Qualification/Active Duty Criteria:** Commissioner Besser handed out the reworked the active duty criteria. There are no changes in content, just the way it is laid out. Commissioner Keenan said that he would like schedule a work session if it wasn't in the middle of holiday season. With that being said, when a new work session is scheduled, the Commissioners need to step up and bring their thoughts and ideas so this can be finished.

**LOSAP/Service Awards:** Commissioner Keenan advised the board that the yearly paperwork was received and he would like to complete it and get it out early if possible.

**Fuel Audit:** Nothing new to report at this time.

**Kaba Keys and Locks:** Nothing new to report at this time.

**Life insurance for Active Members:** Commissioner Keenan stated that we were waiting to complete the active duty criteria. Commissioner Besser spoke to our Attorney today and

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his opinion was that the state statute only allows you to cover active members, but talk to the insurance representative. He also said that if the member was going to leave active service, they could pick up the cost and still be part of it. But again, you need to speak to the representative.

**Letters from NYS DOT and Fire District:** Commissioner Grecco called Senator Larkin's office, but hasn't heard back from them yet. Commissioner Besser also advised the board that someone from another district had contacted Assemblywoman Claudia Tenney's office about the Shawangunk Ridge Fire and included us. Commissioner Besser contacted them again to see if there was any update, but hasn't heard back from them yet.

**Sign Issue:** Commissioner Keenan advised the board that he and some others continue to make progress with the electric to the sign. As a recap, for all the work done so far, the materials cost came to \$333.04. After contacting some companies, Belly Flop dug a trench, filled it in, and used his equipment, his time, his machinery and his item 4 at no charge. Commissioner Keenan would like a tax letter for the amount of \$3,000 for his time and labor. DiMartino's paving paved over the blacktop so the box wouldn't stick out anymore. Unfortunately, it didn't stick. Commissioner Keenan would like to send them a tax letter for the amount of \$500. Commissioner Keenan contacted Commissioner Jacobowitz and made the command decision to hire Belly Flop to redo the blacktop at a cost of \$340. The total cost so far it \$673.04. Commissioner Keenan further stated that the firefighter who has been helping with this project is an electrician who has given his time, his knowledge, his energy and some of his own supplies and has spent about 15 to 20 hours so far and he would like to pay him. Commissioner would like to recommend paying him \$500. A motion was made by Commissioner Jacobowitz and seconded by Commissioner Decker to pay Fred Stipak \$500 for his time, supplies, labor and knowledge with regard to the sign issue. Unanimous approval (5 ayes, 0 nays) was received by those in attendance. Motion carried. Commissioner Keenan stated that the total cost for the sign project is \$1,173.04. Commissioner Keenan also said that they would reposition the light with the use of the ladder truck and if additional lights are needed, they could purchase and mount them. He suggested that a remote control unit be purchased for the pole by the drill pad light and mount it inside the firehouse so it could be activated remotely. It would cost about \$40. Commissioner Besser thanked Commissioner Keenan for his work on this project.

### **New Business**

**Radio Project:** Commissioner Grecco informed the board that after the meeting at the county center, it was in the paper today, that they approved a budget of \$11 million dollars. They will supply all the radios and everything that goes with them. Commissioner Keenan further stated that every fire apparatus is going to get a mobile and portable radio. Every chief car will get a dual header/split head mobile and portable. And every other apparatus that has a number would also be included, even the UTV. He continued that UHF is not going to change. Low band will be discontinued. Commissioner Keenan's concern was how the driver's would talk to the county if needed. Mr. Tankasali advised his that they make a device that would tie into the mobile, so another radio isn't needed. They would be about \$500 and the district would be responsible for this addition. They will cover the base units

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and if we wanted to upgrade, we would just pay the difference.

**Proposed new committee:** Commissioner Decker advised the board that he was approached by Chuck Bissinger about creating a new committee to look into the purchase of a digital sign. He would like the committee to consist of representatives from the fire company, ladies auxiliary and the board. Commissioner Decker stated that it is in the infancy stage, but he will bring more information as he receives it.

**New equipment:** Commissioner Keenan would like to purchase a new Wi-Fi and a Wi-Fi extender and a Universal Power Supply for an estimated cost of \$500. A motion was made by Commissioner Decker and seconded by Commissioner Jacobowitz to authorize Commissioner Keenan to purchase the Wi-Fi, Wi-Fi extender and a UPS for approximately \$500. Unanimous approval (5 ayes, 0 nays) was received by those in attendance. Motion carried.

**Reorganization Meeting:** A motion was made by Commissioner Keenan seconded by Commissioner Grecco to hold a reorganization meeting on January 11, 2016 at 7:00 with the regular monthly meeting to follow. Unanimous approval (5 ayes, 0 nays) was received by those in attendance. Motion carried. The secretary will post this in the Wallkill Valley Times.

### **Chief's Report**

#### **Membership**

- New members: 1 Russell Garrison, Junior Firefighter
- 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

A motion was made by Commissioner Keenan and seconded by Commissioner Grecco to accept Russell Garrison as a Junior Firefighter pending passing his physical and probation. Unanimous approval (5 ayes, 0 nays) was received by those in attendance. Motion carried.

#### **Further Information from the Chief**

- Chief Draiss thanked the board for their support and making his tenure enjoyable. Commissioner Besser (on behalf of the board) thanked Chief Draiss for his almost 2 ½ years for his time and dedication. All other board members thanked Chief Draiss.

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**Further Information from the Commissioners**

Commissioner Besser stated that Matt Hunt gave him a letter from Paratech advising us that MES, NY is an authorized dealer of the Paratech Product Line and product familiarization in the state of New York. Commissioner Besser went on to say that the letter does not specifically say no one else can sell the product here, but Matt said the closest strut dealer is in South Jersey. Matt further stated that if we want sales, service and training, the closest place is in South Jersey. Commissioner Besser said that Haight can sell some Paratech items, but they cannot sell the struts. A copy of the Paratech letter is attached. The board agrees that training is needed. Commissioner Besser stated that the Permissive Referendum ends on Wednesday, so he feels that we can authorize purchase, (after Wednesday) of the struts. A motion was made by Commissioner Grecco and seconded by Commissioner Decker to purchase the struts after Wednesday at a cost of \$13, 025.99. Unanimous approval (5 ayes, 0 nays) was received by those in attendance. Motion carried.

**Turnout Gear:** The turnout gear has been ordered.

**Intake Valve:** Commissioner Besser is waiting to get one more price.

**Executive Session:** At 8:30 PM a motion was made by Commissioner Decker and seconded by Commissioner Grecco to go into executive session to discuss possible litigation and personnel issues. Unanimous approval (5 ayes, 0 nays) was received by those in attendance. Motion carried.

At 9:45 the meeting was reconvened. No decisions or actions were taken.

**District Elections:** Commissioner Besser asked if everything was set for the Commissioner Elections tomorrow night. The secretary responded that it was. Treasurer Miller stated that in some legal notices, the pay was listed as \$40. Could we pay our electors \$40? A motion was made by Commissioner Grecco and seconded by Commissioner Jacobowitz to pay our electors \$40 for their work. Commissioner Besser abstained from the vote. Vote was 4 ayes, 0 nays and 1 abstains. Motion carried.

**Ron Clum:** He is submitting a fee of \$110 per hour to review the financials. Treasurer Miller thought it was a great benefit last year. Commissioner Besser stated that it helped us explain to the auditors why they were wrong on some things. A motion was made by Commissioner Grecco and seconded by Commissioner Jacobowitz to approve the contract with Ron Clum in the amount of \$110 per hour. Unanimous approval (5 ayes, 0 nays) was received by those in attendance. Motion carried.

**Fire Company Election Results:**

Chief  
1<sup>st</sup> Asst Chief  
2<sup>nd</sup> Asst Chief

Matt Hunt  
Barbara Gasperetti  
Mike Kenny

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1 <sup>st</sup> Captain	Rob Cable
2 <sup>nd</sup> Captain	Mike Wirth
1 <sup>st</sup> Lieutenant Senior Grade	David Keller
1 <sup>st</sup> Lieutenant Junior Grade	Wesley Wright
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant Senior Grade	Erik Keenan
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant Junior Grade	Marc Beach
Fire Police Captain	Randy Haylock
President	Keith Aigner
Vice President	Steve Molnar
Treasurer	Frank Sangricoli
Corresponding Secretary	ChrisAnn Kenny
Recording Secretary	Wanda Rogers-Besser
Sgt at Arms	Glenn Keenan
Trustee	Roger Wright
Steward	Sharon Keenan

A motion was made by Commissioner Grecco and seconded by Commissioner Decker to accept the nomination of Matt Hunt as Chief. Poll of board: Commissioner Jacobowitz – yes, Commissioner Decker – yes, Commissioner Grecco – yes, Commissioner Keenan – yes and Commissioner Besser – yes Unanimous approval (5 ayes, 0 nays) was received by those in attendance. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Commissioner Grecco and seconded by Commissioner Decker to accept the nomination of Barbara Gasperetti as 1<sup>st</sup> Assistant Chief. Poll of board: Commissioner Jacobowitz – yes, Commissioner Decker – yes, Commissioner Grecco – yes, Commissioner Keenan – abstain and Commissioner Besser – yes Outcome of vote: 4 ayes, 0 nays and 1 abstain was received by those in attendance. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Commissioner Keenan and seconded by Commissioner Jacobowitz to decline the nomination of Mike Kenny as 2<sup>nd</sup> Assistant Chief. Poll of board: Commissioner Jacobowitz – yes, Commissioner Decker – yes, Commissioner Grecco – yes, Commissioner Keenan – yes and Commissioner Besser – yes Outcome of vote: Unanimous approval (5 ayes, 0 nays) was received by those in attendance. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Commissioner Besser and seconded by Commissioner Grecco to accept the nomination of Rob Cable as 1<sup>st</sup> Captain. Poll of board: Commissioner Jacobowitz – yes, Commissioner Decker – abstain, Commissioner Grecco – yes, Commissioner Keenan – abstain and Commissioner Besser – yes Outcome of vote: 3 ayes, 0 nays and 2 abstain were received by those in attendance. Motion carried.

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A motion was made by Commissioner Besser to accept the nomination of Mike Wirth as 2<sup>nd</sup> Captain. There being no second, no action taken at this time.

A motion was made by Commissioner Keenan and seconded by Commissioner Jacobowitz to dispense with motioning to approve or disapprove the remaining nominees and go right to polled votes. Unanimous approval (5 ayes, 0 nays) was received by those in attendance. Motion carried.

Mike Wirth for 2<sup>nd</sup> Captain

Poll of board: Commissioner Jacobowitz – abstain, Commissioner Decker – abstain, Commissioner Grecco – abstain, Commissioner Keenan – abstain and Commissioner Besser – no

Outcome of vote: 0 ayes, 1 nay and 4 abstain were received by those in attendance. Commissioner Besser stated that it takes 3 ayes to do anything.

Motion failed.

David Keller for 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant Senior Grade

Poll of board: Commissioner Jacobowitz – yes, Commissioner Decker – no, Commissioner Grecco – no, Commissioner Keenan – abstain and Commissioner Besser – yes

Outcome of vote: 2 ayes, 2 nays and 1 abstain was received by those in attendance.

Motion failed.

Wesley Wright for 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant Junior Grade

Poll of board: Commissioner Jacobowitz – yes, Commissioner Decker – yes, Commissioner Grecco – yes, Commissioner Keenan – abstain and Commissioner Besser – yes

Outcome of vote: 4 ayes, 0 nays and 1 abstain was received by those in attendance.

Motion carried.

Erik Keenan for 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant Senior Grade

Poll of board: Commissioner Jacobowitz – yes, Commissioner Decker – yes, Commissioner Grecco – yes, Commissioner Keenan – yes and Commissioner Besser – yes

Outcome of vote: 5 ayes, 0 nays were received by those in attendance.

Motion carried.

Marc Beach for 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant Junior Grade

Poll of board: Commissioner Jacobowitz – yes, Commissioner Decker – abstain, Commissioner Grecco – abstain, Commissioner Keenan – yes and Commissioner Besser – yes

Outcome of vote: 3 ayes, 0 nays and 2 abstain were received by those in attendance.

Motion carried.

Randy Haylock for Fire Police Captain

Poll of board: Commissioner Jacobowitz – abstain, Commissioner Decker – yes, Commissioner Grecco – yes, Commissioner Keenan – yes and Commissioner Besser – yes

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Outcome of vote: 4 ayes, 0 nays and 1 abstain was received by those in attendance.  
Motion carried.

The secretary will compose a letter to the fire company with the results and ask them to hold another election for the vacant offices at their next meeting.

**Information from the Treasurer/Secretary**

Treasurer Miller advised the board that \$85,000 was transferred from Chase to the general fund.

Treasurer Miller is transferring \$114690 from the money market to the general fund.

Treasurer Miller wrote checks for the following:

Apparatus Purchase Reserve Fund	\$125,000.00
Coldenham Fire Company (From Fire Protection)	1,333.34
Coldenham Fire Company (For Installation Dinner)	8,000.00
Janut LaCapa (Tax abatement)	15,583.56
Law office of Bruce Zeffer (Tax abatement)	3,934.10

Treasurer Miller also advised the board that we just received a charge back from the Town of Montgomery in the amount of \$175.17.

Treasurer Miller advised the board that we received a check from the Fire Company for reimbursement for \$1420.59 and a dividend check from Utica Mutual in the amount of \$4201.12.

End of year transfers:

From	To	Amount
Physicals	Building Maint & Repair	\$9416.08
Misc-Other	Postage & Office	2453.64
Wages	Social Security	101.56

A motion was made by Commissioner Decker and seconded by Commissioner Jacobowitz to allow the Treasurer to make the adjustments as previously discussed and to move any remaining balance into the Reserve Fund for Property Acquisition and Improvement. Unanimous approval (5 ayes, 0 nays) was received by those in attendance. Motion carried.

**Approved Expenditures**

Fred Stipak	\$500.00
Wi-Fi, Extender and UPS	up to 500.00
Elector Salary (\$40 per person)	120.00
Ron Clum	110.00/hour



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**Public Discussion**

None.

**Bills Signed**

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

**Budget to Actual Report**

Commissioner Besser advised the board that we received the budget to actual report from the Treasurer and it was reviewed. Commissioner Keenan acknowledged receipt and review of the Budget to Actual Report.

Commissioner Decker thanked Commissioner Besser for his many years of dedication and commitment to the board. The rest of the board also thanked Commissioner Besser. Commissioner Besser thanked the board for helping him make his job as Chair a little easier.

**Adjournment**

Since all regular business was completed, Commissioner Jacobowitz 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