

STAMFORD JOINT FIRE DISTRICT

Minutes

February 13, 2023

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Stamford Joint Fire District was called to order at 7:00p.m. by Chairman Deidra Hill. (This month's meeting was held on a Monday due to a schedule conflict.)

Present were:

Deidra Hill	x	Dusty King	x	Stamford Fire Chief Don VanEtten	x
Lucy Chichester	x	Peter Pioppo	x	1 st Assistant Fire Chief AJ Vamosy	
Ellen Kennedy	x	Tim Powell	x	2 nd Assistant Fire Chief Joe Hornbeck	x
		Bill Sharick	x	Stamford EMS Chief Ryan Hejnal	x

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Ray Baker, Director of Operations for Headwaters EMS was present to discuss and update the Board and Chiefs about the program:

- The Certificate of Need "CON" have not all be returned yet – the Towns of Harpersfield and Kortright are done; the Town of Stamford is due. The medical director will need to sign off on them, with 2-3 weeks needed to review/finalize. Approximately the first week of March should have the three separate CONs.
- It was noted that it is the quickest and easiest way if each Town has their own CON.
- No interviews for the positions have been conducted yet – awaiting the CONs. It was noted that 14 BLS and 7 ALS have applied for the positions.
- It is anticipated that it will be 24 hour shifts with 1 ALS, 1 BLS and part time staff for backup to start out with just one rig. The goal is to have two full time crews.
- Operations will be across from Eklund's on Mile Hill – a garage is to be built. Equipment and permits should be here this week and the goal is March 1st. This will be an actual garage with heat and electric – not a pole barn.
- \$350,000 split by the three Towns with a 2024 start. There were 640 calls logged for last year across the three Towns and what information is based on. There was discussion that calls for Robinson Terrace locations that were direct dispatched with AMR may not be included in the 640 calls number.
- Discussion to work with Schoharie County to cover all in the SJFD – would need to talk with them and work it out – goal is what is best for a patient.
- Dispatching of calls – SFD First Responders and Headwaters EMS to be dispatched simultaneously.
- Discussion about Medicare and Medicaid numbers – the Towns cannot get until the CON is received.
- The aggressive goal is to roll out on April 1st. The reality is would probably be May to start up Headwaters operations.
- Employees – competitive benefits and wages to keep them happy and hopefully stay on.
- A used ambulance has been purchased, and there has been conversation to see if Hobart EMS will lease or sell their ambulance. The used ambulance will require upgrades.
- Sidney EMS has agreed to lease supplies to Headwaters if there are any issues with getting started up. Discussion about cooperative purchasing could be an option between Headwaters, Sidney and Hancock. Discussion about how drug orders would be handled.
- Announcements and public relations will be forthcoming about Headwaters.
- Ray noted that he will continue to be based in Sidney, runs Sidney EMS, is retired, will be Sidney's Mayor and is available to come to Stamford when needed.

The Minutes from the January meeting were read and approved – 1st motion by Tim, 2nd motion by Dusty – none opposed.

Presentation of Bills

<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Ace Hardware	\$ 22.98
AT&T Mobility	\$ 229.38
Donny Stone	\$ 240.00
Ellen Kennedy	\$ 2.22
Emergency Services Marketing (IAR)	\$ 660.00
ESO Solutions	\$ 3,867.17
Gall's	\$ 8,619.91
Gillee's (NAPA)	\$ 21.49
Karl W. Reynard Inc.	\$ 2,261.00
KJBL Electronics	\$ 774.00
KJBL Electronics	\$ 837.75
Margaretville Telephone	\$ 100.69
Margaretville Telephone	\$ 138.77
Mark Powell	\$ 500.00
Muthig's Plumbing & Heating	\$ 206.50
NYSIF Workers' Comp	\$ 1,829.42
On Star	\$ 20.00
Paraco Gas Corp	\$ 636.29
The Daily Star	\$ 45.00
The Daily Star	\$ 76.20
Village Printer	\$ 178.58
WEX Bank	\$ 498.52
	<u>\$ 21,765.87</u>

Approval of bills as presented, with one omitted – 1st motion by Tim, 2nd motion by Peter – none opposed.

Omitted – do not pay KJBL Electronics for \$634.00 at this time. There is further installation to be done on AJ's truck – pay vendor when job is completed.

Treasurer's Report

Bank account balances as of 2/1/2023:

Checking Account	\$ 46,545.24
General Fund Account	\$ 36,485.62
Apparatus Reserve	\$ 100,165.66
Repair Reserve	\$ 23,792.26

Tax monies have been received from the Towns of Stamford and Kortright.
Discussion about regular routine service on trucks would be approximately \$10,000.

Privilege of the Floor

No comments at this time.

Reports / Requests from Fire Department Chiefs

Chief VanEtten –

- No new members this month

Ryan –

- IGEL BLS pilot program supplies \$1100 + medical supplies order = \$1236.18 – approved. 1st motion by Tim, 2nd motion by Bill – none opposed.
- Ryan noted that KJBL cannot guarantee that they would be able to deliver the radios if ordered through the DEC grant by end of June. No order will be placed with them. Ryan and Tim will look at other options.

Joe –

- Noted that a Delaware County rabies clinic will be held again at the firehouse in September. Like last year, the SJFD monthly meeting may start a little late.

Old Business

- Various jobs around firehouse – still a work in progress.
- Landing zone at DEC updates – it was noted that the LZ has not been used yet for any calls.
- Roof project –
 - Mike from S&L wants SJFD to prepare the contract – a floating payment schedule. Tim is working on the contract.
 - 6-8 week lead time to order materials, with June timeframe to start the work.
 - Discussion to take funds from GEN fund to start up/get the materials needed and bond monies would be put back into the GEN fund.
 - Discussion to hold back 30% at the end until the job is complete.
 - Anticipate up to \$50K on materials, bill monthly and hold back 30% - approved. 1st motion by Tim, 2nd motion by Dusty – none opposed.
- Discussion about the firefighter income tax credit. Tim reached out to Bill Young who provided guidance and documents. As a result, the following resolution was adopted:

STAMFORD JOINT FIRE DISTRICT Resolution to Conduct Public Hearing For Partial Real Property Tax Exemption for Qualifying Volunteer Firefighters and Volunteer Ambulance Service Workers

WHEREAS, pursuant to Chapter 670 of the Laws of 2022 effective December 9, 2022, the state Real Property Tax Law was amended by adding a new §466-a authorizing local governments including the Stamford Joint Fire District ("Fire District") to enact by local law, ordinance or resolution such partial tax exemption for Fire District real property taxes to qualified enrolled members of said emergency services providers, following a public hearing; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Fire Commissioners of the Fire District has determined that it may be in the public interest to adopt a resolution granting such partial real property tax exemption for Fire District real property taxes to promote firefighter and volunteer ambulance worker recruitment and retention; and

WHEREAS, the proposed exemption is for the primary residential real property located in the Fire District that is owned by an enrolled member of an incorporated volunteer fire company, volunteer fire department or incorporated voluntary ambulance service that provides services within the city, town or village in which the enrolled member resides to make a portion of the property exempt from taxation and assessments levied by the Fire District to the extent of ten percent (10%) of the assessed value of such property, exclusive of special assessments and subject to the requirements mandated by law; authorizing any enrolled member of an incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department or incorporated voluntary ambulance service who accrues more than twenty years of active service, to be granted the ten percent (10%) exemption for the remainder of his or her life as long as his or her primary residence is located within the County; allowing the un-remarried spouse of a deceased enrolled member who was killed in the line of duty to continue the exemption if the deceased enrolled member had been an enrolled member for at least five (5) years prior to the line of duty death; and allowing the un-remarried spouse of a

deceased enrolled member to continue the exemption if the deceased enrolled member had previously claimed the exemption and had been an enrolled member for at least twenty (20) years before his or her death.

WHEREAS, a public hearing to allow all persons interested in the matter to be heard must be conducted before any such resolution authorizing a partial tax exemption is considered by the Fire District Board of Fire Commissioners.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that a Public Hearing shall be conducted on Tuesday, March 14, 2023 at 7 :00P.M., at the Stamford Firehouse located at 111 Main Street, Stamford, New York for the purpose of soliciting public comment and hearing all persons interested in said partial property tax exemption for Fire District taxes for qualifying volunteer firefighters and ambulance workers; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Fire District Secretary is directed to post and publish a Notice of Hearing in the customary format pursuant to the statutory mandates for posting and publication of such notices.

Motion to adopt the Resolution made by Commissioner Bill Sharick.
Seconded by Commissioner Dusty King.

On the Motion:

Commissioner Deidra Hill	<u> x </u> Aye	<u> </u> Nay
Commissioner Tim Powell	<u> x </u> Aye	<u> </u> Nay
Commissioner Peter Pioppo	<u> x </u> Aye	<u> </u> Nay

The Resolution was adopted.

Dated: February 13, 2023

- This will be posted on the website, shared with the Towns and posted in the newspapers.

New Business

- Deidra – policy renewal paperwork from Kevin Hull at Reynard Insurance. Discussion to leave the cancer coverage as is/no change. Other policies were 24 Hour Accidental Death & Dismemberment renewal and Volunteer Firefighter Accident insurance renewal.

Commissioner Reports / Discussion

- Deidra –
 - Noted needs to update minutes, fire and EMS numbers on the site.
- Dusty –
 - No building issues to note. The boiler was fixed – a plug was put in.
- Peter –
 - 2713 is back in service with no siren.
 - Discussion to upgrade version of siren that is already there. Har-Rob electronic siren would be approximately \$2200 and the sound is not very clear. Discussion for \$4680 less \$830 speaker install = \$3700-\$3800 cost to upgrade current siren, Approved – 1st motion by Dusty, 2nd motion by Peter – none opposed.
- Bill –
 - Noted that Ryan has ordered batteries for G1's and G3's + clips and heavy duty cords.
 - Noted the three new hi-band radios are here.
- Tim –
 - Transfer of firehouse to the District update – noted that the Village will now be getting all of the documents resigned.

Other Business

- Kevin Hull will attend the March SJFD meeting.
- Reminder for December 2023 – interior list to Kevin + annual claims report to OFPC.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40p.m.

Respectfully,

Ellen Kennedy
District Secretary