STAMFORD JOINT FIRE DISTRICT

Minutes
October 20, 2026

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 Tim Powell.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Present were:

Tim Powell	x	Matt Gombosi	x	Stamford Fire Chief Don VanEtten	x
Lucy Chichester	x	Dusty King	x	1st Assistant Fire Chief AJ Vamosy	
Ellen Kennedy	x	Peter Pioppo		2nd Assistant Fire Chief Joe Hornbeck	x
		Bill Sharick	x	Stamford EMS Chief Karen Cole	

The 2027 Stamford Joint Fire District Hearing was opened.

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

Presentation of Bills

Vendor	**Amount**
A Cut Above Landscaping	$ 240.00
Ace Hardware	$ 80.91
Airgas USA LLC	$ 159.10
Amazon	$ 137.80
AT&T Mobility	$ 232.38
Bound Tree Medical LLC	$ 146.01
Clarion Events (FDIC)	$ 5,460.00
Delco Creative	$ 527.00
Family Pest Solutions	$ 95.00
Gillee's (NAPA)	$ 13.49
Har-Rob Fire Apparatus	$ 1,718.50
Margaretville Telephone	$ 99.40
Margaretville Telephone	$ 140.95
NYSEG	$ 636.23
NYSIF Workers' Compensation	$ 1,262.30
Ricoh USA INC	$ 12.02
Robert Nelsen	$ 294.88
Sam's Club	$ 87.86
Sherman Air Services LLC	$ 275.00
The Reporter	$ 35.49
Tractor Supply	$ 12.98
Village of Stamford	$ 144.00
Walmart	$ 57.96
Waste Recovery Enterprises LLC	$ 28.75
WEX Bank	$ 661.91
	$ 12,559.92

Approval of bills as presented – 1st motion by Bill, 2nd motion by Dusty – none opposed.

Treasurer's Report - Bank account balances as of 10/20/2026:

Bank of Greene County Accounts

Checking Account	$	1,935.83
General Fund Savings	$	46,429.05
Apparatus Reserve Savings	$	18,760.05
Repair Reserve Savings	$	12,993.26
PPE Reserve	$	25,310.82
Grants/Loans General Savings	$	83,161.73

Dividends from Utica National - $1,414.82

Privilege of the Floor

None.

Reports / Requests from Fire Department Chiefs

- Chief VanEtten –
  - No new members.
  - Robert Nelsen mileage reimbursement for trainings – 388 miles x .76 = $294.88
  - Jake Van Cleef needs a medium mask. Bill noted he already took care of that.
  - FDIC – Jon Cole, Jake Van Cleef, Brianna Cross and Dakotah Smith are the members who will attend the 2027 convention. Discussion that SJFD budgeted $5,000 in 2027 budget. Registration for event is $5460. Discussion to use funds this year as registration would need to happen now for 2027. We are in good shape budget-wise. Discussion see how this event goes, what the participants learn and bring back to the department – will determine what happens for future years. Approve $5460 at this meeting for their registration – approved. 1st motion by Bill, 2nd motion by Matt – none opposed.
  - PPE – items not covered under the grant was discussed. Leather shields ($38 per) and Majestic brand gloves. Will need 50 shields for all the new turnout gear. $15 additional for personalized, Junior fronts are $42, Chief fronts are $47 – approximately $2500. Will need gloves in various sizes – approximately $4500. Total approximately $7000 for the shields and gloves. Approved – 1st motion by Bill, 2nd motion by Dusty – none opposed.
  - Noted the membership was informed at the last monthly meeting that mandatory drug testing will start in November 2026.
- Joe – nothing to report.

Old Business

- Various jobs around the firehouse – nothing to report. Discussion that Bill and Joe will work on additional shelving and storage in the cage. No budget needed – will use discretion.
- Tabled items – Ready Rack table, hose drying rack and Ready Rack hose cart purchases. Obtained updated pricing from AJ.
  - Ready Rack table - $1135.68
  - Hose drying rack - $908 – holds 600' of hose
  - Ready Rack hose cart - $2100
  - Gear rack hangers for coats and pants (12 sets) - $165
  - Shipping and handling – approximately $1000
  - Total approximately $5500

New Business

- Election inspectors – Diane retired last year after many years of service. A few names were suggested and Ellen will reach out to see if available.

Commissioner Reports / Discussion

- Dusty – nothing to report.
- Peter – did not attend meeting.
- Bill –
  - Communications – got new pagers in.
  - Equipment – helmets delivery TBD, an older airpack is leaking and has been taken out of service. Noted there are only 3 really old ones, and have 6 new ones, with 11 in service. Has been trying to get MES to come to the station – they are hard to get in touch with.
  - Discussion that we do not have a bill yet from former Fyre Fyter – now Cintas. Discussion to purchase a few more extinguishers – will need to bring to the SFD BoD meeting next month before can act on.
  - Reflective jackets have been sent to NCOC BOCES for lettering – should be ready soon.
- Matt –
  - Thank you for use of tables and chairs for Steve Williamson's retirement party.
  - Thank you for fire prevention at school.
  - Discussion about drug test – need an official policy so can roll out. New date scheduled is 1/1/2027.
- Tim –
  - Audit status – Lucy noted still in the works.
  - Air compressor – still trying to get prices.

The 2027 Stamford Joint Fire District Hearing was closed – no one attended.

STAMFORD JOINT FIRE DISTRICT
RESOLUTION TO OVERRIDE
REAL PROPERTY TAX CAP FOR THE 2027 BUDGET

WHEREAS, the Board of Fire Commissioners of the Stamford Joint Fire District must adopt a proposed budget for 2027 and estimate of fund balances in preparation for the annual fire district budget hearing and did so in preparation for the budget hearing, and

WHEREAS, the Board of Fire Commissioners of the Stamford Joint Fire District held the annual fire district budget hearing on notice to the public on October 20, 2026, and

WHEREAS, the Board has considered the proposed budget and comments received on the proposed budget on October 20, 2026 at said budget hearing, and

WHEREAS, the Board has determined that the financial needs of the fire district and fire department for fiscal year 2027 cannot be supported by a budget that would comply with the real property tax cap established pursuant to Section 3-c of the General Municipal Law as the proposed budget for 2027 calls for a real property tax levy that will exceed the real property tax cap permitting only a 2.00% increase in said tax levy; and

WHEREAS, Section 3-c of the General Municipal Law provides as follows:

A local government may adopt a budget that requires a tax levy that is greater than the tax levy limit for the coming fiscal year, not including any level necessary to support the expenditures pursuant to subparagraphs (i) through (iv) of paragraph g of subdivision two of this section, only if the governing body of such local government first enacts, by a vote of sixty percent of the total voting power of such body, a local law to override such limit for such coming fiscal year only, or in the case of a district or fire district, a resolution, approved by a vote of sixty percent of the total voting power of such body, to override such limit for such coming fiscal year only.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Fire Commissioners hereby approves a determination to override the real property tax cap for the 2027 budget to permit an annual real property tax levy that will exceed the real property tax cap with an increase in said tax levy over the two (2%) percent limit and result in a final annual fire district budget in the amount of $363,150.00; and

The adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly put to a vote and upon roll call the vote was as follows:

RECORD OF COMMISSIONER VOTE:

Bill Sharick – aye
Dusty King – aye
Peter Pioppo – did not attend
Matt Gombosi – aye
Tim Powell – aye

Total Ayes: 4 Total Nays: 0

Certification by District Secretary, Ellen Kennedy, of the SJFD, does hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly adopted by the Board of Fire Commissioners at a meeting held on Tuesday, October 20, 2026, and that the roll call vote recorded above is true and accurate.

Other Business
None.

Meeting adjourned at 9:10p.m.

Respectfully,

Ellen Kennedy
District Secretary

DRAFT