

# FIRE ISLAND PINES FIRE DISTRICT

P.O. Box 193  
Sayville, New York 11782  
631-597-6860

## Fire District Commissioners' Meeting – minutes

80 Main Street  
West Sayville, NY 11796  
March 23, 2024

### Present

Commissioner Walter Boss  
Commissioner Rosemary Coluccio  
Commissioner Eugene Cook  
Commissioner Joseph Geiman  
Commissioner Holly Rhodes-Teague  
Secretary/Treasurer Patrick Forrett  
Fire Island Pines Fire Department Chief Kyle Merker

### Order

The meeting was called to order by Comm. Boss at 10:17 AM.

### Minutes

- Review of prior meeting's minutes

**MOTION:** Comm. Geiman moved to accept the draft minutes from the January 6, 2024, meeting. Comm. Cook seconded the motion; all were in favor, and the motion passed.

### Correspondence Review

*Typical monthly bills and utilities:* Bank of America credit card, PSEG Long Island, Verizon, payroll, Firematic, NAPA, Brinkmann's. These bills were presented as vouchers to the Board for approval and payment.

*Other:* –none–

### Secretary / Treasurer's reports

- Monthly banking reconciliations
  - Chase accounts to February 29
  - TD accounts to February 29
- Invoice review, expenditure list for 2024 to date
- Motions list – expenditure and non-expenditure motions for 2024
- Budget to actual report for 2024 to date
- Treasurer's report for March 2024
- Capturing motions done by e-mail
  - *None this period*

**MOTION:** After discussion, Comm. Rhodes-Teague moved to accept the Treasurer's Reports. Comm. Coluccio seconded the motion. All were in favor, and the motion passed.

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## CHIEF'S REPORT

### Alarms:

- #3962 – 1/10/24 – 133 Beach Walk – electrical hazard
- #3963 – 1/17/24 – 171 Cedar Walk – report of Smoke, resolved by on-site electrician
- #3964 – 1/24/24 – 36 Fire Island Blvd – automatic alarm due to construction dust
- #3965 – 2/1/24 – 230 Bay Walk – automatic alarm nothing showing
- #3966 – 2/2/24 – 178 Bayview Walk CG – Mutual Aid – automatic alarm
- #3967 – 2/16/24 – 1 Ocean Walk CG – Mutual Aid -- automatic alarm
- #3968 – 2/19/24 – Coops – automatic alarm
- #3969 – 2/20/24 – Coops – automatic alarm – Chief's investigation
- #3970 – 2/28/24 – 180 Bayview Walk CG – automatic alarm
- #3971 – 3/8/24 – 180 Bayview Walk CG – automatic alarm

### Meetings:

None

### Drills:

None

### Work detail:

None

### Membership status:

Tinsley, Jake	Dropped out of FF1 – probation ending
Kaing, Matt	Dropped out of FF1
Marks, Alexander	Currently Enrolled in FF1
Nicosia, Larry	Awaiting Medical

### Requests / comments:

1. Uniforms:
  - a. Two pairs of new pants – Fridsberg, Cohen
  - b. White LS shirt – Fridsberg
  - c. Blue shirts (LS and SS) – Ski
  - d. Button changes – Kral, Basta, Ski
2. Dinner – Sayville covering
3. OSHA proposed standards changing – comments close May 6

**MOTION:** After a brief discussion, Comm. Coluccio moved to appropriate up to \$6,50 from the Uniforms appropriation to purchase the uniform items listed in the Chief's request, above. Comm. Cook seconded the motion; all were in favor, and the motion passed.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### *Apparatus, equipment, radios – Commissioners Teague and Boss*

The Board discussed Waterways' planned hose testing on Water Island the next day. Comm. Geiman informed the Board that Mechanic Furchert called Waterways twice since the last meeting, and Waterways did not respond. In addition, between the beach erosion and an expected surge tide (there was a large storm system moving through the region that weekend), it would likely be impossible for anyone to get to Water Island to do the testing.

Comm. Geiman noted that the most important piece of equipment in testing is a hose that goes up to 400 psi. He noted that Pines contractors who install house post all have pumps and wondered whether the District could get a contractor to Water Island to perform the tests.

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Comm. Coluccio asked whether it was feasible for the District to buy a pump and have District or Department staff perform the test.

Comm. Geiman informed the Board the FEMA grant application had been submitted. He acknowledged Rich Barry's significant help in getting that done.

He further informed the Board that the NYS infrastructure grant application could be started without an engineer's report or expected cost. The Board enthusiastically supported the application. Application cost is \$1,500, plus an additional \$350 to have the grant-writers register the Department (the requesting entity) in the New York State Grants System.

**MOTION:** After a brief discussion, Comm. Rhodes-Teague moved to allocate up to \$1,850 from the Consultants appropriation to begin the NYS infrastructure grant application system. Comm. Cook seconded the motion; all were in favor, and the motion passed.

Comm. Geiman asked about the emergency entry irons ordered last April. Forrett said he had spoken to the distributors, and they were still backordered. He suggested the order be abandoned and restarted with another vendor.

Apparatus 5-28-10 is back in service; the mechanics thought it had frozen because the doors had been left open. It turns out it hit something, which caused a filter cover to come off. This was an easy fix for Furchert.

All trucks were serviced over the winter.

Conversation returned to the eTrike chief's cart, which everyone agreed was not suitable for use in the Pines. Among the options discussed was selling it on Auctions International, offering it to west-end Fire Island communities (who have both boardwalks and cement walks). The Board decided to announce the sale to the Chiefs' Council, inquire among the west-end communities, and, simultaneously, list it for auction with a minimum \$3,000 bid, disclosing that it needs a new battery pack at a likely cost of \$2,000.

**MOTION:** After discussion, Comm. Coluccio moved to dispose of the eTrike, 5-28-8, with an estimated value of less than \$5,000. Comm. Cook seconded the motion; all were in favor, and the motion passed.

Comm. Geiman informed the board that the chassis for the new 5-28-1 is scheduled to be built on September 9, at which point the chassis payment is due. The rest of the truck should be assembled shortly after that with an anticipated delivery of November or December.

*Budgets – Commissioner Coluccio / Treasurer Forrett*

No update this period

*Records – Commissioners Coluccio, Corradino*

No update this period

*Insurance, LOSAP, membership – Commissioner Cook*

Comm. Cook is preparing the annual LOSAP filing. Otherwise, no other update.

*Public Relations – Commissioner Coluccio*

Comm. Coluccio reminded the Board that the May community FIPPOA meeting is coming up and asked the Board what it would like to communicate in its annual newsletter. Things suggested include the new 5-28-1; the 65th anniversary of the Department.

*Alarms – Commissioner Rhodes-Teague*

No update this period

*ISO – Commissioner Geiman*

Comm. Geiman noted that the Chief needs to request an ISO inspection.

*Grounds – Commissioners Boss*

Comm. Boss provided the Board estimates of all the items identified as important repair projects resulting from last summer's inspection tour of the buildings and grounds. As a note for the minutes, Comm. Boss solicited bids

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and information from several Pines contractors, and only Don Kohlhepp of Pines Hardware & Construction supplied estimates.

In addition, he reminded the Board about the January discussion surrounding the Firehouse generator (emergency power back-up), which is more than 25 years old, well past the typical 15-year replacement cycle for a public service generator. He had just received an estimate from Island Generator Co. to remove and replace the generator with a new 20kW Kohler unit for \$12,510. He also noted that used generators in good working order are easily sold.

With that, the Board decided to undertake the following repairs:

<b>What / where</b>	<b>Estimated cost</b>
Annex, install gutters, north side	\$1,750
Annex, replace stockade fence, east side	\$3,300
Annex, replace ~130 sq. ft. of deck, east side	\$6,250
Firehouse, replace east side external stair	\$12,750
Firehouse, install ADA-compliant door in bathroom	\$1,550
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$25,600</b>

**MOTION:** After discussion, Comm. Coluccio moved to allocate up to \$26,000 from the Building Maintenance and Repair appropriation for the above repairs. Comm. Rhodes-Teague seconded the motion; all were in favor, and the motion passed.

**MOTION:** After discussion, Comm. Coluccio moved to allocated up to \$13,000 from the Building Maintenance and Repair appropriation to replace the Firehouse generator, as described in the estimate from Island Generator Co. Comm. Geiman seconded the motion; all were in favor, and the motion passed.

Tammy Jaggi provided a Board with estimates for spring clean-up and monthly maintenance at the same rate as last year.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

No update this period

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Comm. Boss shared his concerns about the placement of the new mobility shed being built by FIPPOA, which inhibits truck access on the roadway and access to a hydrant. After discussion, the Board decided to bring the matter to the Brookhaven Fire Marshal, Chief Chris Mehrman via a joint letter from the Department and the District.

The Board then took up the subject of the proposed OSHA changes to NSPA guidelines, which will bring enormous burdens to poorly funded and volunteer fire departments in twenty-eight OSHA states, of which New York is one. For example, per the new guidelines, there is not a single firefighter in the Pines Department who would be qualified to be a chief, first assistant or second assistant. The Board discussed the means for learning about the proposed changes (many options, including AFDSNY) and the fact that the comment period was very short. The Board decided to contact District Counsel, William Glass, for his opinion and advice on how to proceed.

#### **Order**

The meeting was adjourned by Comm. Boss at 1:30 PM.