

# FIRE ISLAND PINES FIRE DISTRICT

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

## Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes – August 3, 2019

Fire Island Pines Fire House

### **Present:**

Richard Barry, Commissioner  
Walter Boss, Commissioner  
Francis Corradino, Commissioner  
Douglas Teague, Commissioner  
Patrick Forreth, Secretary and Treasurer  
Joseph Geiman, FIP Fire Department Chief

Commissioner Rosemary Coluccio was absent.

### **Order**

Commissioner Barry called the meeting to order at 12:30 PM.

### **Minutes**

Comm. Corradino moved to approve the minutes from the July 9, 2019 meeting. Comm. Boss seconded the motion. All were in favor.

### **Correspondence review**

PSEG; Verizon; BofA; SCWA

Comm. Barry noted a newly printed handbook for Fire District Treasurers and Secretaries. It was decided that this would be a useful resource for not only the new Secretary/Treasurer, but for the District overall. Comm. Boss moved to approve the expenditure of \$265 to purchase a copy for the District. Comm. Corradino seconded the motion. All were in favor.

As part of this conversation, Comm. Corradino noted that the District's Workplace Violence policy might be outdated. Comm. Barry said he would find the most recent copy and send to Counsel Glass for review.

Similarly, the District's Document Retention Policy was discussed, particularly as it pertains to electronic document retention and getting rid of paper documents following the annual audit, as per Robert Craig's suggestion at the previous meeting. This needs to be reviewed as well.

### **Chief's report**

#### *Review of alarms:*

Chief Geiman remarked that we are up to forty-one alarms for the year so far.

#3695 – 7/14/2019 – Helipad – helicopter landing

#3696 – 7/17/2019 – 460 Fire Island Blvd. – alarm ringing

#3697 – 7/23/2019 – 223 Atlantic Walk – automatic alarm – Co-ops

#3698 – 7/26/2019 – FIB & Atlantic Walk – assisted SCPD – one aided (helicopter landing)

#3699 – 7/29/2019 – 128/226 Atlantic Walk – automatic alarm – Co-ops

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#3700 – 7/29/2019 – 503 Bass Walk – structure fire – BBQ fire  
#3701 – 7/29/2019 – 130/230 Atlantic Walk – automatic alarm – Co-ops  
#3702 – 7/29/2019 – 130/230 129/229 Atlantic Walk – automatic alarm – Co-ops  
#3703 – 7/30/2019 – 130/230 Atlantic Walk & B Bldg. – automatic alarm – Co-ops  
#3704 – 7/30/2019 – 136 Beach Hill Walk – outside fire – BBQ fire

## *Review of meetings:*

#1129 – 7/27/2019 – Department Meeting  
#1130 – 8/03/2019 – Department Meeting

## *Review of drills:*

#1116 – 7/17/2019 – Alt. #4 – Cribbing for TNT Tool, Foam Drill, pre-plan for helicopter landing  
#1117 – 7/27/2019 – #9 – Pre-plan for Pines Party w/egress, overview of TNT Rescue tool  
#1118 – 8/03/2019 – #10 – Hose handling w/SCBA, deck gun operations

## *Work detail:*

#1151 – 7/13/2019 – Annual Community BBQ

## *Membership status:*

Andrew Brenner and Anthony Hird, Probation Members, start FF1 on August 15 at the West Sayville Fire Department.

## *Requests/comments:*

1. LOSAP Report attached, YTD and for July
2. On behalf of the Nominating Committee – composed of ex-Chief(s): Matt Cashman, Bo Fridsberg and Michael Greenberg – the slate of candidates for 2020 is as follows:  
Chief - Joe Geiman; 1st Asst. Chief - Kyle Merker; 2nd Asst. Chief - Jordan Cohen;  
Secretary - Mark Ski; Treasurer - Ray Lucia, Captain - David Seeds; Lieutenant - Frank Strasser; Appointed Officers at the call of the Chief.
3. Completed three Bingo Nights – Thursdays at 7pm till Sept. 50/50 raffle to benefit Pines Care Center
4. Reminder – Lobster Bake – Saturday, August 24
5. TNT Rescue Tool – purchased and received. Thank you to the District for half the purchase of the tool. And we hope to never use it.
6. Pending equipment repairs – three Motorola PR860 handheld portables.
7. Request four more replacement Streamlight Survivor Series NiCd Batteries – \$36.08 each - \$144.32 – Amazon. [Comm. Boss moved to approve \$175 for this expenditure, Comm. Corradino seconded the motion; all were in favor.]
8. Standing by for Cherry Grove F.D. Installation Dinner on Saturday, September 14, 2019.

## **Committee reports**

### ***Grounds report – Commissioner Corradino***

As was discussed in the last meeting, the microwave oven in the Annex is broken beyond repair. Given the traffic in the Annex, it is likely prudent to purchase a commercial grade microwave oven. Comm. Boss moved to approve a budget of up to \$1,000 to purchase a new, commercial-grade microwave oven. Comm. Corradino seconded the motion. All were in favor.

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The district mechanic advised Comm. Corradino that the siren pole at the Firehouse is rotting and needs to be replaced quickly. Comm. Teague proposed a solution with PSEG to inspect the siren poles at the east and west ends of the Pines, to see which is in better shape. The pole that is in better condition will replace the one at the Firehouse. Comm. Corradino noted that if we replace that pole, we may need to remove the tree at that spot.

Comm. Corradino asked the district mechanic and his assistants to clear out gutters and clean off the roof of the old Firehouse. As they were doing so, they almost fell through the roof. The roof on the old Firehouse is completely rotted and must be replaced. This is a priority because so many things are stored in that building. Comm. Corradino has queried a number of contractors for estimates, but he has not yet had any response.

While discussing the old Firehouse, Comm. Corradino noted that its kitchen, which is currently used for storage, can be removed because we now have a functional kitchen in the Annex. The old kitchen could become a storage room for the Chief and the Department. As it stands currently, it is impractical to get things in and out because of counters, sinks, the water heater, etc.

In addition, while setting up for the Annual Barbecue, the door on the east side of the new Firehouse literally fell out of its frame because the frame had been eaten by termites and has rotted. Comm. Corradino suggested two options: one is to repair the opening and replace the door (checking for and exterminating termites along the way); the other is to close the opening and replace it with a wall. Comm. Boss said that he would check the building plans to determine whether that door is required. In the meantime, Comm. Teague moved to approve \$1,500 either to repair and replace the east door, or to close it up. Comm. Boss seconded the motion, and all approved.

Comm. Corradino reiterated the list of items at the Annex that will eventually require attention: the removal of the fireplace; a decision about removing or keeping the sky lights; the replacement of the roof. He also noted the items that will need tending to soon: the front walk, and the gas shed (Pines Propane informs us that two of the current four propane tanks can be removed, leaving the Annex with two-tank service, so that the shed floor doesn't need to be replaced immediately).

Comm. Corradino also noted that the gate locks have been disabled because they were not functioning; the Annex itself will remain locked to protect the premises.

Comm. Corradino confirmed that the bamboo-removal project is ongoing, and he presented Secretary/Treasurer Forrett with two bills, one for maintenance of the Firehouse; the other for the removal of the tree that fell in the storm, the removal of the tree that was infiltrated with bamboo roots, and the installation of new deer fencing around the Annex.

Further, Comm. Corradino noted that the skirting around the deck and stairs – which is rotting – is prohibiting removal of bamboo stalks from under the stairs. He suggested removing it, removing the bamboo stalks, and replacing the skirting in a manner to be determined.

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## ***Treasurer's report***

Secretary/Treasurer Forrett presented reconciliation reports for the main operating account, the money-market account, and the savings account. The accounts were reconciled to July 19, 2019 – the statement date for these accounts.

Forrett further noted that all utility bills are up to date.

Comm. Boss reviewed and approved all Treasurer's reports and the bank account reconciliations.

Comm. Barry noted that Forrett needs to send a cover letter and invoice to Town of Brookhaven for Water Island's annual fire protection service. Forrett will investigate what was done last year and confirm with Comms. Barry and Coluccio on how to proceed.

Comm. Corradino moved to approve the Treasurer's Reports. Comm. Teague seconded the motion. All were in favor.

## ***Apparatus / equipment / radios report – Comm. Teague***

Comm. Barry noted that truck #9A needs to be replaced: the underbody and side panels of this truck are corroding and failing. When volunteers appear for a drill or an alarm, there is not enough equipment to move the firefighters and auxiliary members.

Comm. Barry will confirm with Robert Craig (accountant) and Bill Glass (legal counsel) to determine the most appropriate method and timeline for public notice and referendum for the truck purchase and the building repairs.

Comm. Teague asked Chief Geiman his opinion about shutting down the sirens on the east and west ends. Chief Geiman indicated his indifference because there are many ways to notify members and volunteers of an emergency. In addition, he noted that many mainland Fire Departments have disabled their sirens. Comm. Teague noted that once members and volunteers are notified of an alarm, the sirens inform the public that something is happening. Comm. Corradino noted that in case of an emergency that requires evacuation (e.g., Superstorm Sandy), the siren is the only tool we have to communicate with the community.

The siren discussion will continue.

The need to replace our commercial BBQ grill was discussed. We will put it on our wish list for next year's budget.

The exhaust recovery system is still down. The District Mechanic replaced the broken parts, but then something else failed, so it is still a work in progress.

From last month, we will need to revise the list of structures "too high" for interior firefighting. All the newly raised beachfront homes are an additional 14 feet above grade. Adding to the risk are the propane tanks at the top of the stairs as required by the building department.

We received an estimate from Integrated Wireless in the amount of \$5,092.50 to replace the radios on the sirens.

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On the same topic, District Mechanic Chris Furchert was changing a bulb and had a ladder on the pole by the old firehouse (with the siren on it). He said it was very wobbly, and he believes it will come down at some point not too far from now. We have reached back out to Wireless Technologies for an estimate for changing our sirens to electronic pod type, eliminating east and west maintenance and electricity consumption. One, centrally located, siren would cover the community, and the members have pagers and phone activation. We might be able to get PSEG – particularly since it has a truck parked in the community for the summer – to pull the better of the two east or west poles and reset it at the firehouse. We would still have to change from VHF to UHF, but with only one controller and one antenna. We could also re-use the existing sirens as spares, installing the better of them on the pole at the firehouse, if one is sufficient.

### ***Chairman's report***

Comm. Barry filled out the paperwork and survey for the major insurance policy that comes due in autumn. He expects a quote from Percy Hoek in another month. This quote will then be forwarded to Mark Patrick of Lupton & Luce and Mike Geoghan from Geoghan Insurance for a comparison quote.

Comm. Barry noted he met with Elinor Gomm of the Pines Care Center, and then Jamie Atkinson from Community Ambulance this past month. They discussed ALS services for the community.

The Board of Commissioners discussed the matter, particularly in regard to Community Ambulance's lobbying efforts in the wake of the death on July 4. Chief Geiman noted that as long as Community Ambulance does not transport, and as long as Community Ambulance does not leave anyone in the Pines when someone is transported, it is not at all clear what advantage is conferred by Community Ambulance.

### **Order**

The meeting was adjourned by Comm. Barry at 1:53 PM.