

## MONTHLY MEETING OF THE BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS

January 23, 2025

**CALL TO ORDER:** 7:00 PM

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** 7:00 pm

**MOMENT OF SILENCE:** 7:01 pm

**Present:** Commissioners Brian Meservey, Dave Meservey and John Krill, Administrator Dimana Pineo, Treasurer Dennis Riley, Attorney Greg Serio, Chief Nick DiNovo, Assistant Chief Jon Politis, Auxiliary President Gail Friedman

**Absent:** Commissioners Bob Napier & Jonathan Krill, Fire Association President Brian Caney, Attorney Alyssa Snyder

### EXECUTIVE SESSION:

*Motion made by Commissioner Brian Meservey to enter an Executive Session. Motion was seconded by Commissioner John Krill.*

COMMISSIONER	AYE	NAY	OPPOSED	ABSENT
Dave Meservey	x			
Bob Napier				x
Brian Meservey	x			
Jonathan Krill				x
John Krill	x			

*All in favor, motion carried.*

Entering Executive Session at 7:01 pm to discuss a personnel matter.

Coming out of Executive Session at 7:20 pm.

### PREVIOUS MONTH'S MINUTES:

*Motion made by Commissioner Brian Meservey to waive the reading of and approve the previous month's minutes. Motion was seconded by Commissioner John Krill.*

COMMISSIONER	AYE	NAY	OPPOSED	ABSENT
Dave Meservey	x			
Bob Napier				x
Brian Meservey	x			
Jonathan Krill				x
John Krill	x			

*All in favor, motion carried.*

## TREASURER'S REPORT:

The Treasurer reported that as of December 31, 2024, the District's funds totaled \$1,480,527.53.

*Motion made by Commissioner John Krill to accept the Treasurer's Report. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Brian Meservey.*

COMMISSIONER	AYE	NAY	OPPOSED	ABSENT
Dave Meservey	x			
Bob Napier				x
Brian Meservey	x			
Jonathan Krill				x
John Krill	x			

*All in favor, motion carried.*

## BILLS: Total: \$130,133.25

COMPANY	AMOUNT
Albany County Department of Health	\$290.00
Alltek Energy Systems, Inc.	\$5,215.00
Arthur J. Gallagher & Co.	\$4,791.00
Bank of Greene County	\$93,221.00
Brennan Landscaping	\$1,469.02
Bryans & Gramuglia CPA, LLC	\$1,500.00
Capital One	\$3,133.80
Casella Waste Services	\$88.56
Chris' Coffee Service, Inc.	\$204.25
Culligan Troy, NY	\$63.00
Dennis Riley	\$1,010.62
Dimana Pineo	\$2,074.83
Emergency Responder Products, LLC	\$107.76
Fast Freddy's Detailing and Ceramic Works	\$1,444.50
Grainger	\$179.62
Hoffman Car Wash Circle, LLC	\$120.00
Home Depot	\$69.84
J. Ellrott Excavating, Inc	\$317.50
Kimberly J. Cuva	\$1,601.78
Kiskis Tire Co., Inc.	\$210.90
McGee Elevator Inc	\$1,322.38

COMPANY	AMOUNT
NAPA Auto Parts	\$149.36
National Grid	\$3,832.18
National Trench Safety	\$1,346.00
Nichols Marine LLC	\$1,037.14
NYS and Local Retirement System	\$731.00
River Valley Radio	\$92.85
The Fire Store	\$287.86
Times Union	\$67.74
Town of Colonie	\$878.23
Trilateral Technologies LLC	\$1,520.00
UniFirst Corporation	\$25.96
Upstate New York Plow & Truck Body LLC	\$64.34
Vector One IT Solutions	\$1,063.16
Verizon	\$602.07

*Motion made by Commissioner Brian Meservey to authorize the Treasurer to pay all bills presented before the Board of Fire Commissioners at tonight's meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner John Krill.*

COMMISSIONER	AYE	NAY	OPPOSED	ABSENT
Dave Meservey	x			
Bob Napier				x
Brian Meservey	x			
Jonathan Krill				x
John Krill	x			

*All in favor, motion carried.*

## CORRESPONDENCE:

None

## PUBLIC SESSION:

*Auxiliary President Gail Friedman inquiring about hosting a Brooks BBQ fundraiser at the Verdoy fire station. The Board will approve a drive-through fundraiser, not a walk-through due to safety concerns. Auxiliary President Gail Friedman will work with the Verdoy Fire Association regarding volunteers for the fundraiser. The date for the event is Tuesday, March 18, 2025.*

## **SPECIAL REPORTS:**

### **ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT BRIAN CANEY:**

— No Report Provided —

### **ATTORNEY GREG SERIO (THE D'AMATO LAW GROUP):**

— No Report Provided —

*Commissioner Dave Meservey has requested that the D'Amato Law Firm provide digital copies of all policies approved by the Board of Fire Commissioners thus far. Attorney Greg Serio stated that he will ensure that Administrator Dimana Pineo receive the requested digital copies.*

## **CHIEF'S REPORTS:**

### **CHIEF NICK DiNOVO:**

1. The Line Officers and I would like to begin the process of switching out of the mixed oil and gasoline throughout the firehouse to "Truefuel". The "Truefuel" is 100% ethanol free and pre-mixed to guarantee a perfect mixture of oil and gasoline. This would include all of our saws on the fire apparatus as well as the landscaping equipment with small engines, such as the weed-whacker and the leaf blower. The officers and I would also like to begin the process of switching out all straight gasoline to the "Truefuel" as well. This would be for the generators, gasoline pumps, snowblower and lawnmowers. By making this changeover, this would guarantee 100% ethanol free gasoline and mixed gasoline within our equipment. I will have the pricing details for the meeting.

*Discussion regarding the use of Trufuel. Commissioner Brian Meservey is in favor of using Trufuel for saws and equipment on fire apparatuses.*

*Commissioner Dave Meservey states the lawnmower and snowblower may not need Trufuel and can function with ethanol-free fuel from Stewart's Shop. The backpack leaf blower could be decommissioned from the inventory, as the Fire District has purchased a new one.*

*The Trufuel will be used in the saws and equipment on the fire apparatuses. The snowblower and lawnmower will continue to use non-ethanol fuel purchased from Stewart's Shops. Chief Nick DiNovo will instruct the day staff to return some of the Trufuel purchased from Home Depot.*

2. Old Holmatro Extrication Equipment: Looking for some guidance and direction as to what to do with the old equipment. I believe it still has significant value and I am sure there is a department that it would be useful for. I have spoken with Albany County Fire Coordinator Paris and he said that the equipment can definitely be useful throughout the County for some Departments. The question being do we want to sell or donate it?

*Discussion regarding Holmatro tools. Assistant Chief Jon Politis is requesting a donation from the Verdoz Fire Department consisting of a set of the old extrication tools for use by the National Park Service (letter attached).*

*The Board of Fire Commissioners would like to research the market value of the old Holmatro tools before making a final decision. Any funds from a potential sale of the extrication tools could be added to building up the apparatus purchase fund. Currently, there are two sets of Holmatro tools: one was purchased brand new and one was purchased used. Administrator Dimana Pineo will search through records for the original purchase price and date range of the old Holmatro tools.*

*Motion made by Commissioner Brian Meservey to authorize the donation of one (1) set of Holmatro extrication tools to the National Park Service. The motion was seconded by Commissioner John Krill.*

COMMISSIONER	AYE	NAY	OPPOSED	ABSENT
Dave Meservey	x			
Bob Napier				x
Brian Meservey	x			
Jonathan Krill				x
John Krill	x			

***All in favor, motion carried.***

*Assistant Chief Politis will contact Garrison Fire & Rescue to begin a discussion about the current market value of the second set of old Holmatro Extrication tools. If the Board of Fire Commissioners cannot receive a satisfactory price for the private sale of the set of old Holmatro extrication tools, an additional donation will be considered and discussed.*

***Business taxes:*** *The Board has approved the D'Amato Law Firm to move forward with drafting a plan to increase business taxes.*

3. There is a light out in the Compressor Room as well as the Mezzanine cage if they can be addressed.

*Administrator Dimana Pineo will bring this concern to the attention of Commissioner Jonathan Krill.*

4. Can we reach out to the Insurance Company and find out if they provide the training for an EVOC Course?
5. I am working with the contractor and the engineering firm to get the design finalized for the bailout simulator. I am hoping to have more information for the meeting.

*Discussion regarding the bail-out simulator. The current quote for the project is \$9,550 and it includes fabrication and installation. Per Attorney Greg Serio, this project is subject to a permissive referendum and a bid notice must go out. The D'Amato Law Group will draft the Legal Notice and Resolution and provide it to Administrator Dimana Pineo to submit for publishing in the Times Union.*

6. There is an educational book that comes highly recommended by Chief Politis, which I would like to purchase for each Line Officer and a couple extra to have throughout the

firehouse. They can be purchased on Amazon, for eight (8) books I am asking for up to \$350.00.

*Motion made by Commissioner Brian Meservey to authorize funds of up to \$350 for the purchase of books for the fire officers. The motion was seconded by Commissioner John Krill.*

COMMISSIONER	AYE	NAY	OPPOSED	ABSENT
Dave Meservey	x			
Bob Napier				x
Brian Meservey	x			
Jonathan Krill				x
John Krill	x			

***All in favor, motion carried.***

7. The Mezzanine organization project has already begun. Special thanks to the Line Officers and the membership who began the project during the Latham FD standby. The Officers will be working on a DX list as well as a disposable list for the equipment which is no longer needed.

*The Board would like to commend everyone involved in the Mezzanine organization project for a job well done!!*

8. I will provide an update on the new Rescue 11 project at the meeting.

*The Apparatus Committee has met with Vander Molen and have held multiple meetings. More details to come.*

9. The Line Officers and I are working on a short and long-term plan for the fire department. I will update the BOFC as we move forward on the list.

*Chief DiNovo is working on a current plan of goals and objectives for the rest of the 2025 calendar year as well as a long-term 3 to 5 years plan for the fire department. The plan will be presented to the Board of Fire Commissioners once it is finalized, but in the meantime the Chief welcomes input from the Commissioners regarding firematic priorities the Board would like to be addressed.*

10. Would like to have a discussion on small vehicles and what the future plan for those may be.

*Discussion regarding small vehicle funds being moved to the Apparatus Reserve Fund. Treasurer Dennis Riley will move funds in the amount of \$68,000 for the budgeted replacement of a Chief's vehicle to the Apparatus Reserve Fund.*

11. Included are quotes for 5 pairs of boots, the nozzles for the high-rise packs and radios

***Boots Quote:*** Discussion about replacement boots. The purchase would be considered replacement equipment.

*Motion made by Commissioner Brian Meservey to authorize funds of up to \$1,900 for the purchase of five (5) pairs of boots. The motion was seconded by Commissioner John Krill.*

COMMISSIONER	AYE	NAY	OPPOSED	ABSENT
Dave Meservey	x			
Bob Napier				x
Brian Meservey	x			
Jonathan Krill				x
John Krill	x			

***All in favor, motion carried.***

***Nozzle Quote:*** Hold off on the nozzle quote for now. It will be revisited later.

***Radios Quote:*** Discussion regarding radios. The purchase of the new radios will replace the existing Chiefs' radios. The new radios will include 10 batteries. Funds budgeted for replacement hose equipment will instead be utilized for the purchase of replacement radios.

*Motion made by Commissioner Brian Meservey to authorize funds of up to \$22,000 for the purchase of replacement radios. The motion was seconded by Commissioner John Krill.*

COMMISSIONER	AYE	NAY	OPPOSED	ABSENT
Dave Meservey	x			
Bob Napier				x
Brian Meservey	x			
Jonathan Krill				x
John Krill	x			

***All in favor, motion carried.***

- 12.** There has been interest from our fire officers in attending the Long Island Metro Fire Expo hosted by the NY State Association of Fire Chiefs later this month. Can the Board approve the issuing of per diems and the use of a Verdoy vehicle for travel, please?

*Motion made by Commissioner Brian Meservey to authorize the use of a Verdoy Fire District vehicle for travel to the Long Island Metro Fire Expo and per diem for attendees from the Verdoy Volunteer Fire Department. The motion was seconded by Commissioner John Krill.*

COMMISSIONER	AYE	NAY	OPPOSED	ABSENT
Dave Meservey	x			
Bob Napier				x
Brian Meservey	x			
Jonathan Krill				x
John Krill	x			

***All in favor, motion carried.***

***Item not included in original agenda:** does the Verdoy Fire District have an official blue light policy? Discussion regarding blue light usage and state law requirements.*

**2<sup>nd</sup> Assistant Chief Jon Politis:**

1. Purchase of replacement equipment for Rescue 11. To replace outdated items for water and rope rescue. Not to exceed \$10,000. Competitive prices are being acquired. (see attached Excel sheet)


*Motion made by Commissioner John Krill to authorize funds of up to \$3,500 for the purchase of new Personal Flotation Devices (PFDs). The motion was seconded by Commissioner Brian Meservey.*


COMMISSIONER	AYE	NAY	OPPOSED	ABSENT
Dave Meservey	x			
Bob Napier				x
Brian Meservey	x			
Jonathan Krill				x
John Krill	x			

*All in favor, motion carried.*

2. Request to donate 1 set of surplus Holmatro rescue equipment to the US Department of the Interior, Grand Teton National Park. (see attached letter) They would pay for shipping.

*Assistant Chief Politis will work with representatives from the National Park Service to coordinate packing and shipping of the Holmatro Tools approved for donation earlier in the evening by the Verdoy Board of Fire Commissioners.*

 8:43 pm: Brief break

 8:47 pm: Meeting called back to order

**COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS:**

***Chairman Dave Meservey:***

- Insurance: 2 claims have gone out for cancer treatment. Will need members to fill out beneficiary forms. LOSAP process has been started. Will need to post for 30 days and then submit for final numbers. PERMA insurance policy was updated and paid.

*A representative from the Verdoy Fire Association will need to prepare the list of the annual LOSAP statistics and it will be presented to the Board of Fire Commissioners at their February meeting.*

- Day time: Effective 1/13/25, Dave Whitbourn was made shift leader. The Committee met and thought this was the best course of action to take. Also, I, the Chief and Association President will be able to instruct duties (mainly emergencies) to Dave. Anyone else, including Commissioners, **MUST** go through the Chief if it's an emergency. Any other



issues that arise will need to be brought to the Personnel Committee and we will take it from there. We are aware of the situation the day and will be addressed by the chief.

- Policies: the zero-tolerance policy, social media networking policy and sexual harassment/ workplace violence policies were handed out for members to sign at the State of the Department drill. Anyone that was not in attendance will try to get them to sign before February meeting.

*Discussion regarding Fire District policies. What will be the outcome if members choose not to sign the policies? Administrator Dimana Pineo will send reminder packages out to all members who have not yet signed for this year.*

- Building: still working with EMTech to get the apparatus room heating squared away. The most recent issue, the original issue we called for, turns out that the main circulator pump is undersized. That pump has been changed out twice. The last time Clough swapped it out was in 2014/ 2015. As far as the valves are concerned, some of them are bad and 2 were put on backwards. However, the first issue will be replacing the circulator pump to proper size. Hopefully this week.
- It has been brought to my attention about the possibility of replacing the windows around the office section of the building. I have felt severe draft in the Chief's office and as well as on the second-floor banquet hall northside. We still have money in building reserves to accomplish this. Was originally on the table for station renovation but the board at that time held off.
- There will be an Executive Session regarding personnel issues.

*Commissioner Dave Meservey will attend the 2025 PERMA Members' Conference.  
Administrator Dimana Pineo will complete the registration process.*

***Items not included in original agenda:*** *The apparatus bay floor is chipping in some areas.  
Commissioner Dave Meservey will reach out to BBL to discuss.*

*Commissioner Dave Meservey would like to reiterate the importance of Commissioners signing and approving fire district bills ahead of the monthly Board of Fire Commissioners' Meeting.*

***Commissioner Robert Napier:***

— No Report Provided —

***Commissioner John Krill:***

— No Report Provided —

***Commissioner Jonathan Krill:***

1. Chief vehicles have been detailed and came out great.

*Discussion regarding detailing the fire apparatuses.*

2. Discussion on office furniture/ new cabinet shelf

*The bookshelf in the Chief's office is broken. Discussion about new office furniture.*

3. Alltech should've have fixed the remaining issue with the motors on Jan. 20th

4. The boat committee has a meeting on February 25th at noon for the prebuild

5. I will be at the meeting for a short period of time due to going into work

6. For Fast Freddy's detail bill, can we get a check in the mail tomorrow morning?

*Treasurer Dennis Riley will send out the payment check to the vendor Fast Freddy's Detailing along with the rest of the approved by the Board bills payments.*

**Commissioner Brian Meservey:**

1. Vector One has ordered everything to start the IT upgrade project. Would also like to discuss the separation of Association and District information from the Server.

*Officers and Board Members will receive a login that they can use to access any computer in the building. They will also have the ability to access the Fire District server remotely. Training Room will receive a new computer. Treasurer Dennis Riley's laptop is being replaced, as well as the District Administrator's laptop. The project will take 7 to 10 business days.*

2. Checking with Vector One regarding the use of a Docu-Sign system so members can receive things that need to be signed digitally rather than all the paper copies each year.

3. Update regarding adding two TV's to the office suite hallway as rolling billboards.

*More details will be forthcoming as they become available.*

4. We need to reserve the number of seats for the training in March at Turning Stone, I've already reserved the rooms at the hotel.

*Motion made by Commissioner Brian Meservey to authorize funds of up to \$3,500 to be used for paying attendee registrations for the upcoming Pinsky Law Group Training in March 2025. The motion was seconded by Commissioner John Krill.*

COMMISSIONER	AYE	NAY	OPPOSED	ABSENT
Dave Meservey	x			
Bob Napier				x
Brian Meservey	x			
Jonathan Krill				x
John Krill	x			

***All in favor, motion carried.***

5. The Albany Board of Elections reached out inquiring whether they will be allowed to use the Verdoy fire station as a polling place again this year.

*The Board does not wish to renew the contract with the Albany County Board of Elections to allow the Verdoy Fire Station to be utilized as a polling station in 2025. Administrator Dimana Pineo will contact the Albany County Board of Elections to advise of this decision.*

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

*Motion made by Commissioner Brian Meservey to authorize funds of up to \$150 for the purchase of a new computer desk for the AV room. The motion was seconded by Commissioner John Krill.*

COMMISSIONER	AYE	NAY	OPPOSED	ABSENT
Dave Meservey	x			
Bob Napier				x
Brian Meservey	x			
Jonathan Krill				x
John Krill	x			

*All in favor, motion carried.*

*The Board of Fire Commissioners approves of Tom Jasiewicz to move forward with the installation of the ice machine, previously installed in the upstairs kitchen, in the Member's Room.*

## **ADJOURNMENT:**

*Hearing no further business from the floor, motion made by Commissioner Brian Meservey to adjourn the meeting at 9:33 pm. The motion was seconded by Commissioner John Krill.*

COMMISSIONER	AYE	NAY	OPPOSED	ABSENT
Dave Meservey	x			
Bob Napier				x
Brian Meservey	x			
Jonathan Krill				x
John Krill	x			

*All in favor, motion carried.*

Respectfully submitted,

Dimana Pineo  
District Administrator