

Fly Creek Fire District Board of Fire Commissioners
Monthly Meeting Minutes
Date: Thursday, January 12, 2023

resent: Pam Deane (PD) (Treasurer), Keith Dickison (KD), Sam Hoskins (SH), Ed Kukenberger (EK), Cassidy Lent (CL) (Secretary), Betty Staffin (BS)
Absent (due to continued illness): Christine Voulo (CV)

1. Reading and approval of December minutes
 - a. Correction in the public comments section – should read that Vincent Ruggiero (VR) said the purchase of the snowplow was a frivolous purchase in a letter to the editor in *The Daily Star* and that EK said during the public comments section that VR voted to purchase it.
 - b. Motion to accept minutes with above correction made by KD, seconded by EK; passed and approved
2. Correspondence
 - a. Letter from CV pertaining to training at Turning Stone Casino – See Appendix A
 - i. After discussion, a motion to explore what the training cost, then come to February meeting with hard data on actual cost and explore other possibilities was made by KD, seconded by EK; passed and approved.
3. Treasurer's Report
 - a. PD reported that EMS has already been overspent on
 - b. PD also reported that there is not enough money in the checking account to cover the bills tonight and suggested a transfer of \$186,297.95. Adam Kantor (AK) asked where the money is now. PD stated that it will come from the town, but will come from money market account for now.

c. Payment of Bills	
NYSEG (electric)	\$408.91
Putnam Pest Control (building)	35.00
Morris, Croker (safety equipment)	102.95
Airgas (EMS)	126.00
Town Tax collector (building)	55.00
Superior Plus Propane (fuel oil/propane)	3,685.87
This is for two months	
Spectrum (cable)	137.97
Westlake Ace Hardware (building)	205.05
Church & Scott (EMS)	96.14
Stryker Medical (EMS)	2,092.85
Sam Hoskins (training)	100.00
Keith Dickison (training)	100.00
Town of Otsego (truck fuel)	273.89
Copy Shop Plus (misc)	868.50
Received discount for election ballots	
Katherine Snyder (misc)	100.00

Danielle Dayton (misc)	100.00
Elizabeth Susman (misc)	100.00
Kelly Steele (misc)	100.00
Kelly Steele (building)	75.00
Harry Winnie, Jr. (truck maintenance)	356.36
TOTAL	\$9,119.49

- d. BS stated that copies of bills were attached to vouchers, but originals should be attached.
- e. Motion to accept report made by BS, seconded by KD; passed and approved
- 4. Chief's Report – AK for Chief Voulo
 - a. December calls – Fire 6, EMS 12 toned (5 Fly Creek, 4 Cooperstown, 1 Richfield, 1 Edmeston, 1 Schuyler Lake)
 - b. 2022 totals – 70 fire calls, 159 EMS calls
 - c. Patti Schultz (PS) now EMS squad captain; Chris Kegelman is EMS lieutenant
 - d. Training dates are January 17 and January 31
 - i. January 17 to cut wood; January 31 for cold water rescue drill
 - e. UTV purchased, arriving in February
 - f. Motion to accept report made by KD, seconded by EK; passed and approved
- 5. EMS Report – PS
 - a. Thankful for county doing other calls outside district; can be helpful
 - b. Henry Hight (HH) asked if there was any way to get EMS more money. It was stated that there is money in the budget, just not in the EMS line item. It just needs to be rearranged. The money can be taken from another line item.
 - c. Motion to accept report made by EK, seconded by KD; passed and approved
- 6. Fire Police Report – EK for John Phillips (JP)
 - a. JP at meeting tonight
- 7. Auxiliary Report
 - a. No report
- 8. Special Topics of Discussion/New Business
 - a. Posting scheduled meetings as required ten days prior
 - i. CL to post
 - b. Post agenda and minutes to website as soon as possible
 - i. SH stated that the town supervisor, Ben, suggested waiting until the town has its new website, but can facilitate to help AK out getting these up
 - c. SH stated that communication is an issue; possibly have email address for each commissioner, secretary, treasurer; if each has own device; could be transferred to new people
 - i. SH would get training for everyone on this
 - ii. AK gave history on company website and how Board minutes ended up on website.
 - iii. KD thanked AK for work on this
 - d. Update website with new Commissioners

- i. It was asked that AK update the website with the new commissioners. CL will send correct spellings, positions, etc. to AK
 - e. BS asked where the Board is at with Kinsley
 - i. Twice a year service (\$305, \$450 = \$755)
 - ii. \$2,000 bill because something happened
 - iii. This needs to be renewed
 - iv. AK stated that the building is a disaster shelter, so we need to be up and running
 - v. BS will contact and get new proposal
- 9. Open to public comments – limited to 3 minutes per speaker
 - a. Claire Kepner (CK) asked if it would be worth it for the district to own website?
 - i. SH stated that he would talk with John, talk with town; get someone with web-based abilities so as to be transparent and open
 - b. CK asked about adopting record retention policy, should get and be given to CL
 - i. CL will find
 - c. Shirley Dickison (SD) asked if the cabinets in the meeting room could be moved to a better place
 - i. SH reported that he and others went through these and that there is material that could be moved elsewhere
 - d. SH asked if people would like to have attendees listed. There could have a sign-in sheet at the door and then would be listed in the minutes
 - i. The idea was liked, so will try this going forward – will be broken into three sections (commissioner, fire company, public)
 - ii. SH asked AK if it would be possible to list firefighters, EMT, etc. on company website
 - e. AK asked about the \$21,000 set aside and if there was a total from last year that'll get added, assuming it's in the general fund. PD stated that there was a \$100,000, for a total of \$121,000.
 - f. EK asked if there was a law that allowed for the camera to be in the meeting room
 - i. Discussion about the camera, its purpose, and the legality of it being in the meeting room.
 - ii. SH stated he would contact Joe Frank (JF) about this, while AK suggested following up with Chief Voulo, as well
 - g. SD asked if the commissioners have anything to do with FASNY. After some discussion, it was determined that the dues were taken care of by Chief Voulo and CV earlier in the day.
 - h. HH made a statement in defense of the Voulos. The general consensus is that the community needs to stop arguing, speaking about other behind their backs, and start working together.
- 10. Next meeting: Thursday, February 16, 2023 @ 7:00pm

Motion to adjourn made by EK, seconded by BS; passed and approved

Meeting adjourned at 9:05pm

Respectfully submitted,
C. Lent

APPENDIX A: Letter from CV, read during the correspondence section

Dear fellow fire commissioners:

Unfortunately, I am not able to attend tonight's meeting due to continued illness. However, upon review of the meeting agenda, I was appalled to see a line item regarding Commissioner training at Turning Stone Casino given on March 2-5th. This is a frivolous and outlandish waste of taxpayer money and I am strongly opposed to this. The title of this course is the 15th Annual Fire and EMS Law and Management Conference which is given by the Pinsky Law group – the same attorney that the past board was crucified for contacting by a current sitting commissioner and members of this community, because Mr. Pinsky previously represented former fire department members during the reorganization of this department in 2006.

The registration fee for ONE person to attend this conference is \$350 not including hotel fees which are \$249 a night for one room. My understanding is that it was discussed that the treasurer and secretary were to be included in this as well. For roughly seven people to attend this conference would cost \$6,839 which does not include tax or mileage rates. This is outrageous. We have fire trucks that are outdated, falling apart and in need of constant repair and now Fire District board members are considering going to a casino on the taxpayer's dime? As a taxpayer of Fly Creek, this does not sit well with me and I can only imagine if the rest of the Fly Creek community found out about this even being considered.

Mr. Joe Frank of the Association of Fire Districts is holding a 6-hour Commissioner training seminar which costs \$85 per person which can be taken on three separate dates: 2/11. 3/4 and 3/25.

Mr. Hannigan, our former attorney, and his associate, Mark Butler are hosting a live and interactive online webinar split into 2 evenings on February 20 and 22 which costs \$100 a participant, not several thousands of dollars!!

As a sitting Fire Commissioner and a taxpayer of this district, I want this letter included in tonight's meeting minutes.

I should not have to remind all of you that our job as commissioners is to be fiscally responsible to the taxpayers of our district who elected us in the first place.

Respectfully,
Christine Voulo – AEMT
Fly Creek Fire Commissioner