

Fly Creek Fire Commissioners Meeting
811 County Hwy 26, Fly Creek, New York
September 21, 2023

Present: Keith Dickison, Sam Hoskins, Edward Kukenberger, Elizabeth Staffin, Pamela Deane (Treasurer), Claire Kepner (Secretary)

Guest: Greg Serio (Attorney)

Opening: At 7:00 PM the meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance

Minutes: The minutes of the August meeting were accepted as published by motions from Keith Dickison and Betty Staffin.

Correspondence: None

Treasurers Report: Balance Forward	\$375,599.49
Bills Paid	2,382.21
Current Balance	\$373,206.28

The Treasurer's report was accepted after motions from Ed Kukenberger and Keith Dickison.

Bills:	Spectrum	Cable	137.97
	Putnam Pest Control	Building	70.00
	Ed Kukenberger	Building	130.00
	Hills Signs	Building	174.00
	Hughson & Benson Assoc	Insurance	36.00
	Jess Lanza	Building	124.99
	NYSEG	Electric	355.03
	Town of Otsego	Truck Fuel	54.22
	Safety First Fire Equip Test	Safety Equipment	1,300.00
	TOTAL		\$2,382.21

The bills were paid after motions from Keith Dickison and Ed Kukenberger were approved.

- A motion made by Sam Hoskins to roll over the CDs for 7 months at 5.2% interest was second by Ed Kukenberger and unanimously approved.

Chief's Report: Adam Kantor reported the Company hosted the NYS Fire Association Dinner the night before the Parade celebrating 75 years of service to the District. They expected 50 and 155 attended. The support from other Fire Districts was heartwarming with 30 trucks and at least 7 Districts attending.

- The members went through the fire house, top to bottom, and relieved it of all unnecessary and outdated equipment and junk. The dumpster was full and carted away. Tires, sticker and lights were put on the UTV before the parade.

Put in inventory list

- The company is looking for a trailer for the UTV in order to remove it from the building. They hope to pay between 10 to 12 thousand dollars or less. They cleared \$3655.00 on their raffle selling 429 tickets and earmarking that money for the trailer.
- Adam reported the basement was left unlocked and the lights on and requested more diligence in locking up.
- A request was made to consolidate all company reports into the chief's report. Adam indicated all reports are in the Company minutes.
- The green Truck #12 has holes in the air tank and runs all the time. The truck also has other problems. It will be checked by Ed Kukenberger.
- Truck #13 got inspected.

EMS report: Patty Schultz reported 2 Fly Creek calls and 1 MVA I Cooperstown. She went to a couple of classes and on Thursday there will be an all day class with 3-4 people taking it.

Fire police: They are hoping to have Empire Toyota come with an electric vehicle to review fire fighting issues with it.

Auxiliary: Adam indicated there is renewed interest and hopes to have a meeting in October.

- Keith Dickison made a motion to accept the reports, second by Betty Staffin and all approved.

Old Business

- **Policies**

The commissioners have a draft of the policy on the Building and will start the Policy on Jr. Volunteers. We plan to put the policies on the Web Page.

- **Lease Agreement**

They are compliant and the UTV will be under the exclusive control of the District.

- Keith Dickison made a motion to approve the lease agreement including the trailer that will be considered a Fire vehicle but not an emergency vehicle pending approval of the Greg Serio, Attorney. Second was made by Ed Kukenberger and approved unanimously.

- **Water Treatment**

Sam Hoskins will pursue the issue. Ed Kukenberger is to get the water tested.

- **Status of Building**

The members did a good job of cleaning up the building before the Awards Dinner and Parade. It was mentioned the garbage was picked up before the dinner and also the parade. We were not charged. It was decided to send a gift certificate to Barb Smith as a thank you.

Oil Furnace replacement

Propane furnaces are being explored and 6 estimates are being reviewed. The estimates range in cost from \$13,000.00 to \$39,000.00. The furnace is 30 years old and twice the size needed. Offers include domestic hot water replacement which is electric and is also 30 years old. Harbor Point made the offer to take out and replace what is needed and willing to replace the tank with 1000 gallon tank at no charge and guarantee \$1.65 a gallon for propane till spring 2024.

- Sam Hoskins made a motion to accept the estimate from Harbor point for the furnace, heat and hot water for \$13,166 excepting the electric wire that is needed to put electricity on the corner for a sign. Ed Kukenberger seconded the motion and it was carried unanimously.

Audit

- It was agreed to not spend \$10,000.00 on an audit. Meg Kiernan has agreed to do the review and has contacted NYS Comptroller for advice.

Cameras

ADT was contacted with no response, a Herkimer company cited a cost of \$2,000.00 Michael Gramppt will do the job for \$100.00 per camera. The cost of an 8 camera system is approximately \$650.00 and the District would own it outright.

The commissioners are waiting to hear back from Herkimer.

Fire Truck Replacement

The commissioners are still looking.

Access to Building

The door and frame are rusted out. J & M of Utica cited a cost of \$5994.00 with a delivery time of 10-12 weeks. That includes new locks for front and back doors.

Chris Kegelman recommended Norwich glass. We will get a quote from them to make total of 3 quotes.

Both the side and back doors need to have entry by code to be recorded.

Company Officers

Approval of Company officers by the commissioners was reviewed individually. Nominated by Adam Kantor and second by John Phillips was Jess Lanza for Second Assistant and approved at the company level.

- Keith Dickison made a motion to accept Jess Lanza, second by Ed Kukenberger and unanimously approved.

The approval of Steve Baker as chief was brought forth. There was no motion from the commissioners. The Board does not have to act or explain their vote or lack thereof.

Company by laws do not apply to the District. The Board of Commissioners has the responsibility to select a chief. If a chief is not selected then the responsibility goes to the First Assistant Chief. The law indicates it is on the back of the company to nominate someone else. The Board has the right to not approve a nomination. This was tabled until the executive session is complete immediately following this meeting.

New Business

Adopt Budget The proposed budget cap by NYS is \$197,193.00. 2024 will be the last payment on the ambulance loan.

It is required to have an open budget hearing the third week of October. The 2024 budget hearing will be October 19th at 6:30 PM after which the regular commissioner meeting will be held at 7:00.

The Commissioners congratulated the Company on a successful Awards dinner and Parade.

A thanks for all who cleaned up the fire hall was also expressed.

Public comment

Joan Kegelman expressed her opinion that not voting for the proposed chief was petty.

The executive session was then held.

After the executive session was closed the meeting was reconvened. A long discussion followed and Steve Baker was unanimously approved as chief with the contingency he take the next available commissioner training course.

The meeting was adjourned by a unanimous vote at 10:30 PM

Respectfully Submitted,
Claire Kepner