

**ENDWELL FIRE DISTRICT
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
MONTHLY MEETING
December 20, 2023**

Members:

Carlton "Andy" Anderson, Chairman
Donald Battaglini, Vice Chairman
Michael Hamzik
Mark Storm
Michael Lewis

Others Present:

Erika Pereira, Administrative Assistant
Alison Senft, District Treasurer
Michael Battaglini, Fire Chief
Michele Pandich
Tristian Foster
Robert Congdon
Davey Cortes

The Public Hearing to grant a partial real property tax exemption to enrolled volunteer members of the Endwell Fire Department was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Commissioner Anderson.

PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PARTIAL REAL PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION: This is the public hearing regarding granting a partial real property tax exemption to enrolled volunteer members of the Endwell Fire Department. In accordance with New York State Town Law, all Fire Districts must, prior to the proposition taking effect, hold a public hearing of the proposition.

Since the Endwell Fire District maintains a website, the public hearing was posted on that website pursuant to the requirement of the Town Law.

The notice of the public hearing specified the time and date when and the place where this public hearing would be held.

The purpose of this public hearing is to allow members of the public to make comments on the proposition.

Any person may be heard in favor of or against granting a partial real property tax exemption to enrolled volunteer members of the Endwell Fire Department.

Please note that this proposition is subject to the approval of the Board of Fire Commissioners.

Prior to the public comment portion of this budget hearing, we will hear from Commissioner Mark Storm, who will make a brief presentation of the partial real property tax exemption to the Board of Fire Commissioners and members of the public who are present.

Commissioner Storm researched the possible amount of the partial real property tax exemption for each of the qualified members of the department. We currently have 27 eligible members who own homes within the boundaries of the Endwell Fire District. If a member is out of the Endwell Fire District, the tax exemption does not apply to them. The exemption is to be granted at ten (10 %) percent of the assessed value of the real property owned by an enrolled volunteer firefighter who meets the eligibility

requirements. Another qualification is that the said members' names must be on the deed and tax bill.

We have 22 residing in the Maine Endwell School District, 4 in the Union Endicott School District, and 1 in the Johnson City School District.

Once we receive approval from the Town of Union to grant the Volunteer Firefighter Real Property Tax Exemption, the Fire District will go to each school district to see if they would be willing to grant the Volunteer Firefighter Real Property Tax Exemption as well. Providing this tax exemption to volunteer firefighters will enhance the recruitment and retention of volunteer firefighters in the fire department.

Commissioner Anderson stated the public comments period began. Chairman Anderson asked if any person present wished to be heard on the proposition and that person may come forward so that that person may be heard in favor of or against. Chairman Anderson requested that if anyone wishes to address the board, to please stand up and clearly state their name and address for the record. Comments are to be limited to five (5) minutes. All questions are to be directed to the board. He reminded the public that this was not a question-and-answer session. Your question will not be answered when asked. The Board is looking for your opinion on the proposition or what you are against. You may ask questions, but this board and Commissioner Storm will not answer any questions until the conclusion of the public comments period.

There were no comments from the public.

Commissioner Anderson states the public comments period of this hearing has now concluded. The Board of Fire Commissioners members are now allowed to ask questions.

No Board of Fire Commissioners members had questions regarding the partial real property tax exemption.

Commissioner Anderson stated that this public hearing regarding the partial real property tax exemption was closed—a motion by Commissioner Storm, second by Commissioner Hamzik, to close the public hearing. The public Hearing was closed at 6:20 pm.

The Work session was called to order at 6:20 pm.

The work session was closed at 7:00 pm.

The Board of Fire Commissioners meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm.

Motion by Commissioner Battaglini, second by Commissioner Storm, to approve the November 29, 2023 meeting. All aye; motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Motion by Commissioner Battaglini, second by Commissioner Lewis, to approve the treasurer's report and the capital reserve summary. All aye; motion carried.

Motion by Commissioner Storm, second by Commissioner Bataglini, to move the sale of equipment in the amount of \$159,966.66 and the additional \$55,000.00 to the apparatus capital reserve. All aye; motion carried.

Unfinished Business:

1. Station 3: Keegan Coughlin with COUGHLIN & GERHART will create a letter to LaBella Associates and create the Request for Proposal for an engineering and designing firm.
2. Bunk-In Program: Erika updated the RFP with the requested dates. The RFP will be published in the newspaper and posted on the Endwell Fire District Website.
Issued: January 17, 2024
Due: March 27, 2024
Pre-Bid Meeting: February 28, 2024, at 10:00 am
3. New Apparatus – 2024 Chevrolet Silverado: Waiting for the cab and chassis. Chief Michael Battaglini ordered the service body. Chief Michael Battaglini has been in contact with Bush Electronics to work on a lighting package for the new Utility 31-1.
4. New Apparatus – Engine: There is a two-year turnaround time for the truck to be built and delivered.
5. Updates to Board Room: Rug Fair should receive our flooring this week and will schedule the installation. We must remove the I.T. equipment, small items, and breakables from the board room. The filing cabinets will need to be emptied. The table will need to be moved out of the room.

The flooring price will be \$9,467.70. The Johnsonite Traditional Wall Base 48 Grey WG and the flooring is Mannington Commercial Collection: Spacia Style: Wood Color: Nordic Oak (SS5W2550) was chosen.

We need to purchase 10 of the Duty-Built High-Back Swivel Office Chairs with loop arms in the amount of \$3,325.00.

Jeff's Painting will complete the painting of the board room for the price of \$1,650.00.

Hammer's Woodworking is working on the custom boardroom table with the District and Fire Department logos for the price of \$5,675.00.

6. Gear Lockers: The gear lockers were installed, and member gear was moved back into lockers. Commissioner Storm, Commissioner Hamzik, and Davey Cortes completed the task. Commissioner Storm received a price quote to have eight more gear lockers ordered, as we already do not have any open spots for new members. These will be mobile, and the cost will be \$2,910.00. Motion by Commissioner Storm, second by Commissioner Battaglini, to purchase the additional gear lockers. All aye; motion carried.
7. Fire District Rules & Regulations: Motion by Commissioner Battaglini, second by Commissioner Storm, to implement the Endwell Fire District Rules and Regulations as of January 01, 2024. All aye; motion carried. The Rules and Regulations should be sent to all members for their review and posted on the District website and the members area of the website. Members should sign off that they have received and read the Endwell Fire District Rules and Regulations.
8. New Tower Dedication Plaque: Plaque was ordered from Endicott Artistic Memorial Company. Waiting for the plaque to be delivered.
9. PA System: AV Sound is scheduled to start the sound system upgrade on December 27th through

December 29.

10. Inspection Dinner & Gift Ideas: Commissioner Storm stated the venue is all taken care of. Challenge coins will be ordered in January for the table gifts. Regarding gifts to be given to the members, the District will hand out incentive points. DJ services have been reserved. There will be no photographer this year, but the photo booth will be there again. The Inspection Dinner is scheduled for March 23, 2024.
11. Partial Real Property Tax Exemption for Volunteer Firefighters: A public hearing was held with no comment from the public.

**RESOLUTION OF THE ENDWELL FIRE DISTRICT
TO GRANT A TAX EXEMPTION TO ELIGIBLE VOLUNTEER
FIREFIGHTERS AS PROVIDED FOR BY REAL PROPERTY TAX LAW §466-a**

WHEREAS, § 466-a of the Real Property Tax Law authorizes the Fire District, after a public hearing, to grant a partial real property tax exemption to enrolled volunteer members of the Endwell Fire Department

WHEREAS the Fire District has conducted the public hearing required by the statute and elicited public comment on said topic

WHEREAS the Board of Fire Commissions has determined that the granting of the tax exemption will enhance the recruitment and retention of volunteer firefighters in the Fire Department

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that an exemption be granted at ten (10 %) percent of the assessed value of the real property owned by an enrolled volunteer firefighter who meets the eligibility requirements established in this resolution;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the enrolled member of the O.L. Davis Fire Company / Endwell Fire Department must meet the following requirements to be eligible for the tax exemption:

1. The enrolled member must reside in the territory served by the Fire District
2. The property must be the primary residence of the enrolled member
3. The property is used exclusively for residential purposes, provided, however, that in the event any portion of such property is not used exclusively for the applicant's residence but is used for other purposes, such portion shall be subject to taxation, and the remaining portion only shall be entitled to the exemption provided by this section
4. The Chief of the Fire Department has certified the enrolled member to have served at least two (2) consecutive years of active service in good standing. Excuses for fire and/or training are prohibited with the exception of line-of-duty injuries, and such certification has been approved by the Board of Fire Commissioners

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that an enrolled member of the O.L. Davis Fire Company / Endwell Fire Department who accrues more than twenty years of active service as certified by the Chief of the Fire Department shall be granted the ten (10%) percent exemption as authorized by this

resolution for the remainder of his or her life as long as the property for which the exemption is sought under this resolution is the primary residence of the enrolled member.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the exemption granted under this resolution shall continue for the un-remarried spouse of an enrolled member of the Fire Department who is killed in the line of duty upon the following conditions:

1. The un-remarried spouse is certified by the Chief of the Fire Department as the un-remarried spouse of the volunteer firefighter killed in the line of duty; and
2. The deceased volunteer firefighter had been an enrolled member for at least two (2) consecutive years of active service in good standing; and
3. The deceased volunteer firefighter had been receiving the exemption prior to his or her death.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the exemption granted under this Resolution shall continue for the un-remarried spouse of a deceased member of the Endwell Fire Department under the following conditions:

1. The un-remarried spouse is certified by the Chief of the Fire Department as the un-remarried spouse of the deceased enrolled member of the O.L. Davis Fire Company / Endwell Fire Department
2. The deceased volunteer firefighter has been an enrolled member for at least twenty years
3. The deceased volunteer firefighter has been receiving the exemption prior to his or her death.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any exemption granted under this Resolution shall be filed with the Town of Union on the forms designated by the Town; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Fire District is directed to provide the Town of Union with a copy of this Resolution; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THIS RESOLUTION shall be effective as of the date of its adoption.

The adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly put to a vote, and upon roll call, the vote was as follows:

Chairman Carlton "Andy" Anderson	AYES
Commissioner Donald "Don" Battaglini	AYES
Commissioner Mark Storm	AYES
Commissioner Michael Hamzik	AYES
Commissioner Michael Lewis	AYES

The resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted.

12. Photographer: Commissioner Hamzik will work on putting together a policy on the photographer. The board would like to have two photographers for the department. There is currently one member interested in being the photographer.

13. Wireless access point: The two new wireless access points were installed.
14. Rob Congdon stated that the air packs will need to be replaced in the next couple of years. The Board of Fire Commissioners should start looking at a replacement schedule. It would be ideal to replace 36 for the next three years. There is currently \$261,158.77 in the Equipment Capital Reserve.

New Business:

1. Approve bills and supplement for payment: Motion by Commissioner Battaglini, second by Commissioner Lewis, to pay the bills and supplement for payment:

Vouchers # 23_12-001 to 23_12-025, including payroll and Debt Service interest payments totaling \$85,001.24.

December Accruals List: Vouchers # 23_12-026 to 23_12-056 totaling \$33,241.95.

All aye; motion carried.

2. Line Transfers: Motion by Commissioner Battaglini, second by Commissioner Storm, to accept the line transfer submitted by Treasurer Alison Senft. All aye; motion carried.

3. Buildings & Grounds:

- The Training Room camera was installed.
- Motion by Commissioner Hamzik, second by Commissioner Battaglini, to switch the current dumpster to a 6-yard container. The cost increase will go from \$126.10 to \$160.00 a month. All aye; motion carried.
- Commissioner Storm contacted T&B Electric to look at options for the light in the fuel pump and change out the breakers in the community room.

4. Community Room Request: Motion by Commissioner Lewis, second by Commissioner Battaglini, to approve the request to use the community room. All aye; motion carried.

Date	Times	Requested by	Use	Cost	Comments
01-13-2024	12:00 pm – 4:00 pm	Tara Alkins	Baby Shower	\$200 Security Deposit \$200 Room Rental Fee	
01-21-2024	3:00 pm – 8:30 pm	Cheryl Smith	Birthday Party	\$200 Security Deposit \$200 Room Rental Fee	

Commissioner Hamzik stated that after the fire company events, the fire company failed to clean up after themselves. The table and chairs were never put away on two occasions. Cathy Storm has had to mop and sweep the flooring. The Board of Fire Commissioners would like to see the Fire Company clean up after themselves better.

5. Chiefs Report: Motion by Commissioner Storm, second by Commissioner Hamzik, to accept the Chief's Report. All aye; motion carried.

Honorable Board Members,

I met with Union Center Chief Mark Belensky, and we have made a few changes to our run cards for the county. Union Center has requested Endwell Fire to respond to 1st alarms to all Northside fire-related calls in their district. (Fires, Automatic alarms, etc.) We will not respond to gas odors, CO calls, or wires down. As for coming into Endwell, I have changed the run cards to Squad 53-2 on 2nd alarm fires instead of Rescue 53. That was on the response plan for its cascade system. We have had our cascade for many years and don't require it from them. I have discussed this with the assistant Chiefs and most of the officers. This will hopefully be put in service soon, depending on how long it takes Broome County to enact it.

Car 31-C has had over \$11,000 in maintenance this year. A decision needs to be made on this vehicle moving forward.

We had an amazing stop on a chimney fire that spread into the walls of a home early Tuesday morning. We had many firefighters, apparatus from Endwell, and mutual aid departments.

We did have one more minor issue with Broome Communications on this fire with what was dispatched from mutual. Broome County contacted me prior to my reaching out to them, and they are addressing this issue as well.

We have been requested to send a piece of apparatus to the Park Manor Homeowners Association this Saturday @ noon. I want the OK to do so.

Thank you all for another year of support. I look forward to moving into 2024 and picking up right where we left off in 2023. We have a great thing going on right now, and I want to keep that up. Thank you, Mark Storm, for what you have done and contributed to the Endwell Fire Department during your time on the Board of Fire Commissioners. As always, thank you, Erika, for your day-to-day support and communication. Thank you to my Assistant Chiefs for everything you continue to do.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!

6. Support Services Report: Motion by Commissioner Storm, second by Commissioner Hamzik, to accept the Support Services Report. All aye; motion carried.
7. Maintenance Division Report: Motion by Commissioner Storm, second by Commissioner Hamzik, to accept the Maintenance Report. All aye; motion carried.

The following maintenance was completed since the last board meeting:

- Engine 31-2 *The air horn and pump panel lights were repaired.*
- Quint 31 *Paint/rust issue in process / DEF system was repaired*
- Chief 31C *Recently spent 11,400 on various repairs. Should it be considered for replacement?*
- SCBA *Cascade annual service*

8. Training Division Report: Motion by Commissioner Hamzik, second by Commissioner Storm, to accept the Training Report. All aye; motion carried.

Trainings held in the month of November:

- December 4th – Vestal Live Burn
- December 11th – Open – Depending on 31, getting cars
- December 18th – Ropes, Knots, Patient Packing, and water rescue items

Special Operations Trainings:

- December 2nd – Water Rescue

Outside Trainings Offered:

- McNeil Trainings Online- Multiple Training Available

- *NYSEG Trainings Online*
- *National Grid Safety Training – 3 Hours*
- *CPR and First Aid Training – December 13th – Open to Everyone*
- *FEMA – Online Training Courses and In-person Classes*
- *Rescue 3 Request for Swift Water Rescue (SRT) Training – Still Working on Quotes*

Currently in NYS Training:

- *Incident Safety Officer – 1 Personnel*
- *Survival – 9 Personnel*
- *Fire Officer 1 – 2 Personnel*

Upcoming Fire Trainings in December (Subject to Change):

- *December 25th – Christmas – No Training*
- *January 1st – New Years – No Training*
- *January 8th – Live Burn*
- *January 15th – Motor Vehicular Extrication – PPT*
- *January 22nd – Maintenance Night*
- *January 29th – Motor Vehicular Extrication – Hands On*

9. Fire Company Report(s):

- a. Motion by Commissioner Storm, second by Commissioner Hamzik, to accept Daniel Totten and Brianna Saunders as new members of the fire company pending the successful completion of their physical; motion carried.

10. O.L. Davis Fire Company Newsletter: Erika will put the 2024 Organizational Meeting, the January 2024 Board meeting, and the Save the Date for the 2024 Inspection Dinner in the monthly newsletter.

11. Donation(s): We received one donation from Fairways Indoor Golf LLC in the amount of \$ 300.00. Motion by Commissioner Battaglini, second by Commissioner Hamzik, to place the donation in our donation fund. All aye; motion carried.

12. 2023 Election Results: Motion by Commissioner Battaglini, second by Commissioner Hamzik, to receive and file results of the Fire District election. All aye; motion carried.

Richard Wroblewski was elected as Fire Commissioner for a 5-year term beginning January 01, 2024, and ending December 31, 2028.

13. Mondorf & Fenwick PLLC Engagement Letter: Motion by Commissioner Lewis, second by Commissioner Battaglini, to accept the engagement letter from Mondorf & Fenwick to complete the 2023 Audit. All aye; motion carried.

14. Motion by Commissioner Storm, second by Commissioner Hamzik, to authorize the Treasurer to pay vouchers, utilities, payroll, debt service, credit cards, and special check requests as due to close the books for the year 2023. All aye; motion carried.

15. The 2024 organizational meeting is scheduled for January 10, 2024, at 6:00 pm.

The January monthly is scheduled for January 17, 2024, at 7:00 pm, with the work session at 6:30 pm.

Hearing of Visitor(s): None

Correspondence(s): None

Motion by Commissioner Anderson, second by Commissioner Lewis, to ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION at 7:18 pm to discuss matters leading to the appointment, employment, promotion, demotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal, or removal of a particular person or persons. All in favor; motion carried.

We exited the executive session at 7:45 pm with no action taken.

A letter will be sent to the member.

Motion by Commissioner Battaglini, second by Commissioner Hamzik, to adjourn the meeting at 7:49 p.m. All aye; motion carried.

All motions were unanimously carried unless otherwise noted.

Respectfully Submitted,



Erika Pereira

Fire District Secretary