

**ENDWELL FIRE DISTRICT  
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS  
MONTHLY MEETING  
March 27, 2024**

**Members:**

Donald Battaglini, Vice Chairman  
Michael Hamzik  
Michael Lewis  
Richard Wroblewski

**Others Present:**

Erika Pereira, District Secretary  
Alison Senft, Treasurer  
Michael Battaglini, Fire Chief  
Robert Brady, President of Fire Company  
Michele Pandich, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President of Fire Company  
Cheryl Grafton, Treasurer of Fire Company  
Jake Polovchak  
Julie Spisak  
Joseph Shoemaker  
Dennis Sullivan  
Davey Cortes  
Amy Cortes  
Gregg Cook  
Patrick Spisak  
Christopher Lee

Vice Chairman Battaglini called the Board of Fire Commissioners' Work session to order at 6:30 pm.

The Board went over the agenda.

The work session was closed at 7:00 pm.

The Board of Fire Commissioners meeting was called to order at 7:01 pm.

Motion by Commissioner Hamzik, second by Commissioner Lewis, to approve the February 28, 2024 meeting minutes with no corrections. All in favor; motion carried.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Commissioner Hamzik made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Wroblewski, to approve the treasurer's report and Capital Reserve Summary. All were in favor; aye, the motion carried.

**Unfinished Business:**

1. Station 3: Commissioner Hamzik and Commissioner Wroblewski will meet next Tuesday to review the RFP.
2. Bunk-In Program: Only two proposals were submitted by the deadline.  
Hunt Engineers Architects Surveyors - \$76,200.00  
Delta Engineering - \$ 188,00.00

Only \$50,000.00 was allocated for the bunk room area at Station 1 in our 2024 budget. To design, the area is well over the allocated budget for the project. The Board of Fire Commissioners will hold off on progressing with the project. The 2025 Budget planning will begin in July / August,

and will see if they can include the project.

3. New Apparatus – 2024 Chevrolet Silverado: The new U31-1 is in and has been brought to Binghamton Truck Body. The service body has been installed on the truck. It is waiting for a winch and slide-out tray to be installed at that location; it will then be sent to Bush Electronics for light fitting.
4. New Apparatus – Engine: There is a two-year turnaround time for the truck to be built and delivered.
5. Updates to the Board Room: The cabinets are slowly being cleaned out. Hammer’s Woodworking is still trying to level the tabletop. The last item to purchase is the new chairs around the table.  
 We need to purchase 10 Duty-Built High-Back Swivel Office Chairs with loop arms for \$3,325.00.
6. Inspection Dinner: The Inspection Dinner was held on March 23, 2024. We had 110 RSVPs. Saturday, March 29, 2025, will be the next Inspection Dinner. There are extra challenge coins if any member would like to purchase.

**2023 AWARDS - 2024 INSPECTION DINNER**

| Award                                      | PLACE                           | NAME                      | Hours |
|--|---------------------------------|---------------------------|-------|
| Most Total Hours                           | 1st Place                       | MARK STORM                | 751   |
|  | 2nd Place                       | JOHN KAPLAN               | 445   |
|  | 3rd Place                       | RYAN DERKOWSKI            | 390   |
| Most Training Hours                        | 1st Place                       | TRISTAN FOSTER            | 277   |
|  | 2nd Place                       | RYAN DERKOWSKI            | 227   |
|  | 3rd Place                       | MARK STORM                | 203   |
| Most In House Training Hours               | 1st Place                       | STEPHEN HILL JR           | 107   |
|  | 2nd Place                       | JOHN KAPLAN               | 104   |
|  | 3rd Place                       | JORDAN KANE               | 101   |
| Most Fire Hours - Fire Officer             | 1st Place                       | MICHAEL BATTAGLINI        | 178   |
|  | 2nd Place                       | MARK STORM                | 175   |
|  | 3rd Place                       | KYLE FERRARO              | 173   |
| Most Fire Hours- Non-Officer               | 1st Place                       | CATHRINE STORM            | 182   |
|  | 2nd Place                       | COLE FARLEY               | 180   |
|  | 3rd Place                       | CHRISTOPHER LEE           | 157   |
| Most Service Hours                         | 1st Place                       | MARK STORM                | 374   |
|  | 2nd Place                       | JOHN KAPLAN               | 160   |
|  | 3rd Place                       | DAVEY CORTES              | 122   |
| Most Active New Member                     | 1st Place                       | COLE FARLEY               | 373   |
|  | 2nd Place                       | JORDAN KANE               | 336   |
|  | 3rd Place                       | CHRISTOPHER LEE           | 253   |
| Most Active Fire Police                    | 1st Place                       | TRISTAN FOSTER            | 366   |
|  | 2nd Place                       | CATHRINE STORM            | 365   |
|  | 3rd Place                       | DAVEY CORTES              | 344   |
| Most Active Auxiliary Member               | 1st Place                       | CATHRINE STORM            | 169   |
|  | 2nd Place                       | JULIE SPISAK              | 149   |
|  | 3rd Place                       | MICHELE PANDICH           | 144   |
| <b>COMMISSIONERS EXCELLENCE AWARD 2023</b> |                                 | <b>MICHAEL BATTAGLINI</b> |       |
| <b>Service Awards</b>                      |                                 |                           |       |
| <b>50 Years of Service</b>                 | <b>Carlton " Andy" Anderson</b> |                           |       |
| <b>Past Fire Commissioner - 5 Years</b>    | <b>Mark Storm</b>               |                           |       |

7. Partial Real Property Tax Exemption for Volunteer Firefighters: Commissioner Hamzik gathered all the information for eligible members and explained that he is trying to follow the law with them. He contacted many people regarding this exemption and determining who was eligible.

Commissioner Hamzik read his email from Terry Hannigan, the FASNY lawyer, regarding his recommendation on the 20-year lifetime exemption.

*"Michael,*

*There are essentially two effective dates--one for the statute 12/092022 and one for the resolutions of the various taxing jurisdictions. (The Endwell Fire District resolution was December 20, 2023)*

*FASNY's position is that anyone who was "active" and had 20 years in on December 9, 2022, qualifies for 20-year enrolled member status, as does anyone who serves 20 years and is still active at the time the local taxing jurisdiction adopts the resolution granting the partial tax exemption. Thereafter, anyone who gets 20 years in moves from 2+ year status to 20+ year status."*

Commissioner Hamzik read his email from Joseph F. Frank, the Association of Fire Districts lawyer.

*Dear Mike:*

*As you have noted the statute is not very clear on the application of the 20- year member section. What the statute is clear on is that to participate in the partial real property tax exemption program a person must be an active volunteer firefighter. I would interpret this as meaning that a person who is not currently an active firefighter is not eligible for the partial real property tax exemption and cannot apply his or her 20 or more years of prior service to qualify for the 20- year member section.*

*With that being said, it seems to me that when the fire department commences participation in this partial real property tax exemption program by submitting to the town assessor the list of active volunteer firefighters that are qualified for the program after the town, county, and fire district have adopted their resolutions to participate in the program, it can only list volunteer firefighters who are currently active with the fire department.*

*Once the volunteer firefighters are active members who have been listed on the filing with the town assessor, I believe that their prior service would be capable of being recorded under the program and they would eventually be covered under the 20- year member section when they achieve the combination of being active and having at least 20 years of active membership.*

*As an example, firefighter Jones is an active member and is reported on your first filing by the chief to the town assessor. He has been a member of the fire department for 17 years. If he remains active for three more years, he will meet the requirement of the 20- year member section.*

*As another example, firefighter Smith is an active member and is reported on your first filing by the chief to the town assessor. He has been a member of the fire department for 25 years. Firefighter Smith we'll be qualified under the 20- year member section immediately.*

*As stated above, this is a relatively new statute and there are no court interpretations of the meaning of the statute. I submit this opinion noting that limitation. It seems to me that the objective of this legislation is to be able to recruit and retain volunteer firefighters that will or are actively serving their community. It is not meant to reward previously active firefighters. It is meant to keep currently active firefighters in active status and to convince people in the community to volunteer and serve.*

*I know that inevitably the question will arise as to how the law will apply to a firefighter who is currently inactive and decides to apply to again be an active volunteer firefighter in his community. If that firefighter previously had served 25 years as an active firefighter and now returns to active status, will he gain the benefit of the 20- year member section immediately?*

*I think that the better interpretation is that he starts as a new active firefighter with no time on the books for the 20- year member section.*

*Otherwise, how long does he need to be active to gain 20-year member status?*

*I do not think the intention of this law was to create the opportunity for someone to come back to active status for a short period of time to "cash in" on the 20-year member section, but I cannot definitively state that it cannot be done.*

*However, I believe that many districts and departments will seek to interpret that return to membership as activating the 25 years of prior service and qualifying the person for the 20- year member section. My sense is that this will be a local determination until such time as a court might definitively rule on interpreting the language of the statute. The town assessor may be the person that polices this by saying no to that person getting the benefit of the 20-year member section.*

*I apologize for the speculative nature of this response.*

Commissioner Wrobleski would like to see our policy reflect the Broome County policy exactly because nowhere in the county law does it say, active members. The only place in any of the laws where it says active member is in the Town Law. The county and state laws state enrolled members. That is where the majority of the confusion comes from. The Fire District should make this as broad as we can so we can include more members in the exemption. If the Fire District can get the Town of Union to change its wording from active member to enrolled member, then this question on 20-year members will no longer be a question.

Commissioner Hamzik and Commissioner Wrobleski will work on amending the Town of Union law.

The Volunteer Firefighter Partial Real Property Tax Exemption Policy will be placed on hold until more information regarding Active Members and Life Members is gathered.

Dennis Sullivan stated that he knows this is a new issue, and both sides are learning what is happening with this exemption. He is not bashing anyone either, but he also spoke with Joe Cook and explained his situation. He wasn't trying to pull any punches, and he told him that he is 75 years old and he doesn't fight fires anymore. Dennis Sullivan stated that Joe Cook told him that is not the intent of this; someone like himself should get the exemption. Dennis Sullivan then stated he spoke with Jason E. Shaw Broome County Legislature for District 8 and two New York State Law Makers. He also received the written thing from the school board with them being on board with it, and the form itself does not mention anything about being a current active member. If the Town of Union is taking that position, then they are going against New York State.

There was a discussion on the tax application form and the eligibility of 20-year members.

Dennis Sullivan would like to see the Board of Fire Commissioner iron out the eligibility of the 20-year member as soon as possible because he would like to be included in this year's school taxes. He would like Commissioner Hamzik to get with Joe Cook to see if an amendment could be made for the eligibility of 20-year members.

Commissioner Wrobleski read the Town of Union Law sections E, F, and G.

Section E. - The volunteer firefighter or volunteer ambulance worker is certified by the organization, entity, or individual responsible for promulgating and enforcing the rules of conduct and defining active service of such volunteer firefighter or ambulance worker (the "Authority Having Jurisdiction") for the incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department, or voluntary ambulance service as an enrolled member who has served such incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department, or voluntary ambulance service for at least two (2) years; and

Section F. – The Volunteer firefighter or volunteer ambulance worker is certified by the Authority Having Jurisdiction for the incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department, or voluntary ambulance services, as an active member for the year prior the applicant's application; and

Section G. – The applicant must submit said certification each year from the Authority Having Jurisdiction together with the tax exemption application.

In this case, the Authority Having Jurisdiction for the incorporated volunteer fire company or fire department is the Endwell Fire District.

8. **Photographer:** Two active members are interested in being our photographers. Before becoming a photographer, they will have to get an annual exterior firefighter physical and complete an in-house orientation course.
9. **SCBA Bottle Replacement:** At the last board meeting, Chief Battaglini received a price quote from Municipal Emergency Services (MES) for replacing just the bottles and a quote for replacing air packs and bottles. He is working on getting a second price on the State Contract pricing. He stated he is leaning more towards replacing the cylinders only, not the entire SCBA, but he is not 100 percent sure yet.

There is currently \$261,158.77 in the Equipment Capital Reserve Funds.

10. **Station 3 Keyless System Panel:** Sentry Alarms was onsite today to replace the down panels. They have the overhead and front doors working. They are waiting for the second panel to come in so they can get the back door working.
11. **Scanners for Stations:** Commissioner Wrobleski would like to order three of the Uniden BCD996P2 Digital Mobile Trunk Tracker V Scanners, which cost \$389.99 per scanner. Commissioner Wrobleski handed the paperwork to Erika so she could order them.

### **New Business:**

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

Vouchers # 24\_03-001 to 24\_3-054, including payroll and Debt Service interest payments totaling \$79,495.75

Supplemental List: Vouchers # 24\_4-001 to 24\_4-028 totaling \$34,805.61.

All in favor; motion carried.

2. **Buildings & Grounds:**

- Commissioner Hamzik stated that there have been some roof leaks at Stations 1 and 3. He was talking to Kyle Ferrero the other day, and Kyle recommends that preventative maintenance be completed on all three stations' roofs. The last set of PMs was completed back in 2019. Commissioner Hamzik will let Kyle know to complete the PMs.
- Commissioner Hamzik stated that the circulating pump in the furnace room was leaking on March 09, 2024. He contacted Evans Mechanical to replace the pump. The electric pump is going bad and was recommended to be replaced. It makes a grinding noise while it is engaged. Evans Mechanical does not have one in stock and ordered one, so we are waiting for that to come.

Commissioner Hamzik will look into an alarm for water in the furnace room.

3. Donation (s): We received donations from The Riverdale Banquet Hall for \$250.00 and Phyllis Smith for \$100.00. Commissioner Hamzik made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Lewis, to place the donations in our donation fund. All aye; motion carried.
4. Chief's Report: Commissioner Hamzik made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Lewis, to accept the Chief's Report. All in favor; Aye; motion carried.

*Honorable Board Members,*

- *I have been in touch with the Broome County Fire Coordinator to try and limit the reach of our FAST team again. In the last week we were sent to Castle Creek and Triangle. Once again, this defeats the purpose of a FAST or RIT team. I hope to work with him to establish a border distance to which we would travel. I made it clear that Station 31 has no issue helping anyone, but the fire fighters operating on the scene deserve better than FAST 31 traveling 20-30 minutes.*
  - *We also will be sending our Rescue to Endicott for all working fire for the cascade system. This is due to Union Center taking Rescue 53 out of service to be re-chassised. The rescue will also serve as the apparatus to get our requested manpower to the scene. We either go as FAST or they request manpower, this is dependent on the location in Endicott.*
  - *I am still working on getting another quote for our SCBA or cylinder replacement. I will have no issue getting a 2nd quote, but it is very clear that I will not be able to get a 3rd. Scott is very clear about the territory lines in which the dealers can sell, it's a lot like purchasing fire apparatus.*
  - *The new Res-Q-Jacks for Rescue 31 have arrived we will be having a factory training on the equipment before they are put into service.*
  - *The new U31-1 is in and has been brought to Binghamton Truck Body. The service body has been installed on the truck. It is waiting to have a winch and slide out tray installed at that location, it will then be sent to Bush Electronics for light upfitting.*
  - *The water rescue equipment has started to come in and is being put into service.*
  - *All of our foam has been changed out and replaced with "Green Foam". I brought our old foam to the MFA building to swap it out. Broome County is handling disposal of the old foam.*
5. Support Services Report: Commissioner Hamzik made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Lewis, to accept the Support Services Report. All aye; the motion carried.
  6. Maintenance Division Report: Commissioner Hamzik made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Lewis, to accept the Maintenance Report. All aye; the motion carried.

*The following maintenance was completed since the last board meeting:*

- *Quint 31                      Paint/rust issue in process*
  - *Chief 31B                    NYS Inspection / Oil change*
  - *SCBA                         Looking into replacements / All but one past annual flow testing out for repair*
7. Training Division Report: Motion by Commissioner Hamzik, second by Commissioner Lewis, to accept the Training Report. All aye; motion carried.

***Trainings held in the month of February/ March:***

- *February 5<sup>th</sup> – Live Burn - 24 Personnel*
- *February 12<sup>th</sup> – Hazcom, Hazmat and Fire Review – 36 Personnel*
- *February 19<sup>th</sup> – Hoses and Handlines, Searches and Attack – 33 Personnel*
- *February 26<sup>th</sup> – Firefighter Survival, Bailouts, and Tower ops – 29 Personnel*
- *March 04<sup>th</sup> – Live Burn Training Vestal*
- *March 11<sup>th</sup> – Brush Fires and Equipment*

- March 18<sup>th</sup> – Forcible Entry and Locks
- March 25<sup>th</sup> – MVA Cutting and Rescue Jacks – 32 Personnel

**Special Operations Trainings:**

None

**Outside Trainings Offered:**

- McNeil Trainings Online- Multiple Training Available
- NYSEG Trainings Online
- National Grid Safety Training – 3 Hours
- FEMA – Online Training Courses and In-person Classes

**Currently in NYS Training:**

None

**Upcoming Fire Trainings in April:**

- April 01<sup>st</sup> – Live Burn Training Vestal
- April 8<sup>th</sup> – Brush Fire Scenarios
- April 15<sup>th</sup> – HAZMAT DECON Training in East Maine with Broome County HAZMAT
- April 22<sup>nd</sup> – Water Rescue Awareness
- April 29<sup>th</sup> – Motor Vehicle Extrication

The Training Schedule will be posted to IAMRESPONDING Application.

**8. Fire Company Report(s):**

- a. Commissioner Hamzik made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Lewis, to accept Kieran Farley as a new member of the fire company pending the successful completion of his physical. All aye; the motion carried.
- b. Motion by Commissioner Hamzik, second by Commissioner Lewis, to accept Tristan Foster as Fire Police Lieutenant pending the successful completion of his driver qualification signoffs for all utility vehicles and Brush 31 as required by Article V—Firematic Officers and Qualifications of the Rules and Regulations of the Endwell Fire District for Fire Police Lieutenant. Tristan Foster has three months from March 27, 2024, to complete this requirement in order to maintain his position as Fire Police Lieutenant. All aye; motion carried.
- c. Motion by Commissioner Lewis, seconded by Commissioner Wroblewski, to accept the Fire Company's request to hold the following events at Fire Station 1.

May 19, 2024 - Antique Show (Setup Saturday night before) – Community Room

June 17-22, 2024 - Firehouse Sub Truck - out front on the apron

Oct. 20, 2024 - Memorial Service – Community Room

Oct. 27, 2024 - Fire Company Clambake – Community Room

Nov. 17, 2024 - Antique Show (Setup Saturday night before) – Community Room

All aye; motion carried.

9. O.L. Davis Fire Company Newsletter: Commissioner Battaglini reminded everyone that Alice Fiacco, Company Secretary, is working on the monthly newsletter and to think of ideas to place in the newsletter.

10. Request to move the deceased members' board to the Community Room: Commissioner Lewis stated that members asked if it would be possible to move the deceased member's board to the Community Room so more people can view it. Since its current location is in the hallway by the District Office, the general public does not walk through that hallway frequently. Motion by Commissioner Lewis, seconded by Commissioner Wrobleski, to move the deceased members' board to the Community Room. All aye; the motion carried.

Commissioner Lewis will get with Kyle Ferraro to move the board.

11. Ehrlich Vegetation Management Service Agreement: Motion by Commissioner Hamzik, second by Commissioner Storm, to approve the Vegetation Management Proposals for 2024 in the amount of \$1,173.70. The price has not changed from last year.

Station 1 - \$470.80

Station 2 - \$315.70

Station 3 - \$387.20

All aye; motion carried

12. Sophos Renewal: Motion by Commissioner Hamzik, seconded by Commissioner Lewis, to proceed with the MDR/Managed Detection and Response "Essentials" for three years in the amount of \$7,266.58 plus the one-time installation pyramid technical support charge for the MDR. All aye; the motion carried.

13. Amendment to the Fire District Rules and Regulations: Kevin Mahoney reviewed the proposed amendments and made his comments. As required by Article XVI—Amendments of the Rules and Regulations of the Endwell Fire District, all five fire commissioners must be present to vote on the amendments. Since Commissioner Anderson is not present, this will have to wait until the next board meeting.

Hearing of Visitor(s): Robert Brady wanted to discuss some things on the Partial Real Property Tax Exemption for Volunteer Firefighters. He stated that Commissioner Wrobleski had just read something that basically said the incorporated organization is the one that decides and sends the list to the municipality. The incorporated organization is the O.L. Davis Fire Company. That is what the members belong to. The members don't belong to the Fire District as the Fire District does not have members. Robert Brady stated that the list submitted to Joe Cook was not on letterhead, dated, or signed by anyone. Rob Brady stated that Joe Cook sheepishly admitted that really it was not official at all.

Commissioner Wrobleski reiterated that what was read off was according to the Town of Union Law section E. The volunteer fighter or volunteer ambulance worker is certified by the organization, entity, or individual responsible for promulgating and enforcing the rules of conduct and defining active service of such volunteer firefighter or ambulance worker (the "Authority Having Jurisdiction") for the incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department, or voluntary ambulance service as an enrolled member who has served such incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department, or voluntary ambulance service for at least two (2) years; and

Section F. – The Volunteer firefighter or volunteer ambulance worker is certified by the Authority Having



Jurisdiction for the incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department, or voluntary ambulance services, as an active member for the year prior the applicant's application; and

Section G. – The applicant must submit said certification each year from the Authority Having Jurisdiction together with the tax exemption application.

The Authority Having Jurisdiction for the incorporated volunteer fire company or fire department, in this case, is the Endwell Fire District.

The final decision regarding the exemption shall be at the sole discretion of the Town of Union Town Assessor, subject to the provisions of this local law.

Robert Brady stated he contacted the Fire Company lawyer, Brad Pinsky, regarding this matter because so many life members complained. Robert Brady read his response. *"A life member is defined as an enrolled member. So, all life members, regardless of whether they do anything today for the Fire Company, are included."* Robert Brady stated he was at every public hearing, so he knew what the Town Board meant, but if they did not say the right thing, that was news to him. He has every resolution and has attended every one of the meetings and public hearings.

Robert Brady stated that he is also working on increasing the New York State income tax credit. He also stated that you cannot claim a New York State income tax credit for the same volunteer service if you receive this exemption.

Commissioner Battaglini reiterated that Commissioner Hamzik and Commissioner Wrobleski will work on getting the 20-year member eligibility worked out.

Lieutenant Jake Polovchak stated he did not want to diminish the members who worked for the department, but it was his understanding that this whole thing came about for recruitment, to encourage the guys to go on calls and to keep them going. He was confused about how the exemption works, but he felt everyone should get it.

Chief Michael Battaglini stated that there are too many interpretations of the law. No one can give you a cut-and-dry answer on how the exemption works. Everyone interprets their own way and thinks their way is right.

Commissioner Wrobleski stated the exemption is not only for recruitment but also for retention. You have members looking to put in their 20 years of service to be granted a lifetime exemption. The people who have already put in their 20 years before the law are trying to understand why they do not get the lifetime exemption benefit as well. Every one of the laws, New York State, Broome County, and even the School Board law, has a section for the twenty-year members.

The Board of Fire Commissioners will gather more information on the requirements for 20-year members for the partial real property tax.

Cheryl Grafton stated that we had our Inspection Dinner this past weekend. It was very nice. She was curious about the award ceremony, especially the Auxiliary members' awards. She wondered why the most active auxiliary member was not actually the most active auxiliary member.

Erika Pereira informed her that some auxiliary members also hold positions as Fire Company Officers. A fire Company Officer has specific duties that must be completed to hold that position, which is not considered auxiliary time. Just like the fire chief and assistant chiefs, they are excluded from being included in the awards except for most fire hours—fire officers because they have specific required duties to hold that position, which gives them the advantage of having more hours. So, to be fair and to follow the same rule, it was decided to exclude Fire Company Officers' duties as part of Auxiliary times. Erika Pereira asked Alice Fiacco, Fire Company Secretary, to remove any Fire Company Officers' responsibilities from the times for auxiliary members. Alice gave Erika the auxiliary times used for the award, as Erika no longer keeps track of the auxiliary members' time.

Cheryl Grafton then proceeded to state, so we just decided to change that from the last couple of years. Then, she noted that the time she has put in is not worthy of recognition, regardless of what she does, because she steps forward and takes on more. She stated it was interesting how it was changed, and nothing was said about it. She felt that a statement should have gone out prior, possibly stating a change was made this year; while Michelle and Cheryl have done quite a bit, we decided to adjust this slightly, and this is how the award will be determined. She then stated that she had put in 234 hours plus probably more and then realized it didn't count. It's insulting.

Erika Pereira reminded her that most of her time was spent on fire company officers' duties, not auxiliary time. She stated she could not help it.

Commissioner Wroblewski wanted to know if there was a policy for handing out the Inspection Dinner awards.

Erika Pereira stated that it is not so much a policy as a procedure given to her when she started and that she has been following it for the last eight years.

Julie Spisak would like to thank the Commissioners for the inspection dinner, which was very, very nice. She certainly appreciates it and all the hard work that was put in. She wanted to let the Fire Commissioner know that at the dinner, a Fire Company Officer was disgruntled over the awards. They were sitting at their table, making commentary, when we had guests from our neighboring departments at the next table. She thought that was very rude and inappropriate. She offered to give up her award if it made them happy.

Dennis Sullivan wondered if the Fire District or Fire Company would consider switching to a yearly requirement for hours because tracking part of the tax exemption requirements would be a nightmare.

After discussion, it was decided that the requirement for the tax exemption will remain at 50 hours for the year, but the hourly requirement for the Fire Company will remain as is.

Robert Brady stated that the Fire Company Officers requested that the Fire District hold a meeting to resolve some issues with each party's legal representation.

Commissioner Battaglini stated that the Fire District would like to meet, but with Commissioner Anderson being out on medical leave at the moment, they would like to wait until he returns. Commissioner Battaglini would like the Fire Company to come up with their list, and the Fire District will also come up with their list. The lists will then go to both attorneys; they can discuss it and work out

what they can. Then, the Fire District and Fire Company can meet to finalize everything.

Correspondence(s): The 1st Annual CAFDA Conference is held Thursday, April 25 – Saturday, April 27, 2024, at Fort William Henry Hotel & Conference Center.

Copies of the Association of Fire Districts of The State of New York Fire District Affairs for February 2024 – March 2024 were handed out.

The New York Department of Transportation notified of an upcoming pavement preservation project on State Route 26 from West Corners to Maine Memorial School during the 2024 construction season.

Commissioner Lewis made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Hamzik, to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 p.m. All aye; the motion carried.

*All motions were unanimously carried unless otherwise noted.*

Respectfully Submitted,



Erika Pereira

Fire District Secretary