



VESTAL FIRE DISTRICT

1136 Front Street, Suite 01
Vestal • New York • 13850
Phone: 607-797-2756
www.vestalfiredistrict.org

**Board of
Fire Commissioners**
David Harrington
Daniel Kirchheimer
Thomas McCartney
Keith Purdy
Mark Tomko

Regular Board of Fire Commissioner Meeting Minutes May 20, 2026

1. Present Thomas McCartney, Chairman
Daniel Kirchheimer, Vice Chairman
David Harrington, Commissioner
Mark Tomko, Commissioner – Absent
Keith Purdy, Commissioner
- Others Present: Chuck Paffie, Acting Fire Chief
Bill Stout, Assistant Fire Chief
Andy Eaton, Dept President
Derek Waddell, Dir of Training
Bob Hamilton, 2nd Lieutenant
Don Albrecht, 2nd Lieutenant
- District Staff: Susan Bowen, Fire District Secretary
Erika Pereira, Assistant Fire District Secretary
Paige Willes-Brown, Director of Purchasing
Marisa Butler, Fire District Treasurer
Clay Ellis, Director of Communications
2. Meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Commissioner McCartney.
3. Commissioner McCartney led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.
4. Approval of the Previous Meeting Minutes
- 4.1 Motion by Commissioner Kirchheimer, seconded by Commissioner Purdy to approve the regular meeting minutes from April 22, 2026.
All in favor: 4 (McCartney, Kirchheimer, Harrington, Purdy) Opposed: None Absent: 1 (Tomko)
Motion Carried.
- 4.2 Motion Commissioner Purdy, seconded by Commissioner Kirchheimer to approval the special meeting minutes from May 7, 2026.
All in favor: 4 (McCartney, Kirchheimer, Harrington, Purdy) Opposed: None Absent: 1 (Tomko)
Motion Carried.
5. Correspondence Report
- 5.1 Letter from Town Councilwoman Suzanne Messina was read to those present regard Recruitment Day visit. Commissioner McCartney directed Assistant Chief Chuck Paffie to follow-up with Councilwoman Messina regarding her concerns.
- 5.2 Received and filed Vestal Fire District LOSAP – January 1, 2026, Annual Report & Benefit Statements All commissioners received a copy for their review.
- 5.3 Received communication from Broome County Board of Elections regarding the use of the fire stations during election season.



VESTAL FIRE DISTRICT

1136 Front Street, Suite 01
Vestal • New York • 13850
Phone: 607-797-2756
www.vestalfiredistrict.org

**Board of
Fire Commissioners**
David Harrington
Daniel Kirchheimer
Thomas McCartney
Keith Purdy
Mark Tomko

Station 1 and Station 3 will not be used for the Primary Election however will be used for the General Election

Station 2 and Station 4 will be used for the Primary Election and will be used for the General Election

Notification was placed into each station mailbox.

5.4 Received from FASNY through general email winners of the Gerard J. Buckenmeyer Memorial Scholarship. Station 1 member Brendan Horn received \$1,500 Scholarship. Secretary Susan Bowen noted that the AFDSNY 2026 Edward “Ned” Carter Scholarship was awarded to Apalachin Firefighter Sam Winians who is also a Vestal High School Senior. Two Vestal High School students received fire-related scholarships

5.5 Received AFDSNY Fire District Affairs for April-May 2026 and distributed to the Commissioner and staff.

6. Bid Openings - None

7. Scheduled Appointments (Guests) - None

8. Operations Report – Acting Fire Chief Chuck Paffie (or Designee)

- Received report from Safety and training, reviewed and submitted response back to them. Received Training Site and Quartermasters reports.
- Spoke with Fire Commissioner on request from Town Supervisor asking for fires stand on battery storage, manufacturing and recycling, added my comments to his letter for a joint replay from both district and department.
- Working with Colin White on securing the hard keys to New Station 4.
- The department has many members taking training and I will have to get you the list Wednesday evening as I don't have a complete list.
- Received a Training Announcement from Fire Coordinator Roe for a NERIS training course for one member to attend. This class is June 29th 6 pm 4 hr duration
- Received a Training Announcement for Swift Water Technician Course in Whitney Point on July 23-26th. \$700 per student by Bill Matney. Had a request from 2 Station 3 members, Cole Abbott and Josh Toussant
The request has been tabled to the next board meeting.
- Fire Calls: 61 BU Calls: 23 Mutual Aid: 2 House fire in Endicott/Brush in West Corners
- Where do we stand on the status of the computers in vehicles?
Commissioner Kirchheimer reported speaking with Jason McGonnigal at The Computer Shop; the desired machines are no longer made; alternative options are being explored; the task has not been forgotten.
- After chiefs' election can we get business cards printed?



VESTAL FIRE DISTRICT

1136 Front Street, Suite 01
Vestal • New York • 13850
Phone: 607-797-2756
www.vestalfiredistrict.org

**Board of
Fire Commissioners**
David Harrington
Daniel Kirchheimer
Thomas McCartney
Keith Purdy
Mark Tomko

Commissioner McCartney confirmed cards will be produced.

8.1 Discussion regarding Fire Advisory Board voting to do an officer change along with a helmet color change department wide

- Proposed reorganization: eliminate assistant foreman positions; adopt officer hierarchy of Chief, Captain, First Lieutenant, Second Lieutenant, Third Lieutenant.
- Standardize helmet colors:
 - Chiefs: white
 - Fire officers: red
 - Interior firefighters: black
 - Non-interior firefighters: yellow
- A question was raised about whether the budget projection included one-time changeover plus future costs, or just the one-time changeover, but this was not followed up on. It was noted that any changes could be phased in.
- Purpose: Establish an easily identifiable helmet color system to distinguish ranks, roles, and responsibilities, enabling quicker identification of key personnel during emergencies to improve safety, communication, and efficiency.
- Chief Officers: White helmets, denoting leadership and highest-ranking status on scene.
 - Captains: Red helmets; responsible for day-to-day operations and tactical decisions; red aids identification of a fireground commander during an emergency response.
 - Interior Firefighters: Black helmets; responsible for interior suppression and rescue; black signifies specialized interior role and differentiates from exterior personnel.
 - Exterior Firefighters: Yellow helmets; responsible for exterior suppression; yellow indicates exterior roles during operations.
 - Exterior Firefighters with SCBA status: Yellow helmets with SCBA rocker labels; identifies individuals assigned to tasks requiring self-contained breathing apparatus and environments requiring extra protection.
 - Second and Third Lieutenants: Helmet color yellow or black, reflecting current tag status; white leather fronts display rank to ensure leadership roles and tag status are clearly identifiable on scene.
 - Probationary Members: Yellow helmets with an orange front stating “Probationary Firefighter” to differentiate newer members and foster accountability during training and responses.
- Conclusions: The standardized system supports rapid identification in high-pressure situations, maintains effective command, safety, and communication, fosters professionalism and order, improves team cohesion and accountability, and enhances safety by clearly communicating each firefighter’s role, reducing confusion during complex operations.
- Direct quote highlight: “This standardized system will help foster a sense of professionalism and order within the department, improving team, cohesion and accountability.”
- Cost analysis is identified as a requirement, and clarification is made on lieutenant status and helmet color alignment with tag status.



VESTAL FIRE DISTRICT

1136 Front Street, Suite 01
Vestal • New York • 13850
Phone: 607-797-2756
www.vestalfiredistrict.org

**Board of
Fire Commissioners**
David Harrington
Daniel Kirchheimer
Thomas McCartney
Keith Purdy
Mark Tomko

- Preliminary cost figures are discussed, including helmet and front shield pricing, with an informal total approximating \$35,000 for full rollout.
- Budget planning status is referenced, with confirmation that the item was submitted and included in budget materials.
- Approval dynamics and current-year funding constraints are reviewed, noting limited helmet funds and recent purchases.
- Strategic budgeting for FY2027 is proposed, and the operational rationale for color changes is debated against enforcement of existing tag/personnel policies.
- The financial justification and adoption context for a proposed \$35,000 helmet purchase are under review.
- The discussion focused on the financial implications of a bulk helmet purchase versus the current phased-in annual budget.
- A proposed bylaw change to eliminate the foreman positions and consolidate lieutenant roles is pending membership approval and has implications for the points system.

9. Department Business Report – President Eaton (or Designee)

- The department is still processing a recent loss of Gene Wagner, and members gathered on Monday night (2026-05-18) to share memories.
- Station One held a 5K fundraiser, which was impacted by rain but still raised some money.
- Station Three's chicken barbecue event was reported to have gone well.
- The President provided an update on department-wide matters, including leadership for an upcoming event and funeral service details.

Commissioner Kirchheimer left the meeting at approximately 6:45 p.m.

10. Station Reports (Fund Raiser/Special Events/Member Requests)

- a. Station 1
- b. Station 2

10b.1 Motion by Commissioner Harrington, seconded by Commissioner Purdy to approve to have a piece of apparatus parked, conditional on Apalachin Fire Department having no issues with the arrangements, at the Apalachin Post office for Dr. Patrick Giannetto, a San Diego Firefighter and a Vestal High School alumnus, Celebration of Life at The Dugout in Apalachin on Thursday, June 25 at 6pm.

All in favor: 3 (McCartney, Harrington, Purdy) Opposed: None Absent: 2 (Kirchheimer, Tomko). Motion carried.

- Action Item: Acting Chief Chuck Paffie to contact Apalachin Fire Chief Mike George to inform them of the family's request for a Vestal truck and ensure there are no objections.

- c. Station 3
- d. Station 4



VESTAL FIRE DISTRICT

1136 Front Street, Suite 01
Vestal • New York • 13850
Phone: 607-797-2756
www.vestalfiredistrict.org

**Board of
Fire Commissioners**
David Harrington
Daniel Kirchheimer
Thomas McCartney
Keith Purdy
Mark Tomko

11. Membership (New and Current)

11.1 Motion by Commissioner Harrington, seconded by Commissioner Purdy to approve Matthew Tiberia to join Station #2, all requirements were met.

All in favor: 3 (McCartney, Harrington, Purdy) Opposed: None Absent: 2 (Kirchheimer, Tomko).
Motion carried.

11.2 Motion by Commissioner Harrington, seconded by Commissioner Purdy to approve Tyler Gallo to join Station #3, all requirements were met.

All in favor: 3 (McCartney, Harrington, Purdy) Opposed: None Absent: 2 (Kirchheimer, Tomko).
Motion carried.

11.3 Motion by Commissioner Harrington, seconded by Commissioner Purdy to approve Joey Lamphere to join Station #3, all requirements were met.

All in favor: 3 (McCartney, Harrington, Purdy) Opposed: None Absent: 2 (Kirchheimer, Tomko).
Motion carried.

11.4 Motion by Commissioner Harrington, seconded by Commissioner Purdy to approve Michael Clifford to join Station #4, all requirements were met.

All in favor: 3 (McCartney, Harrington, Purdy) Opposed: None Absent: 2 (Kirchheimer, Tomko).
Motion carried.

11.5 Motion by Commissioner Harrington, seconded by Commissioner Purdy to approve Station #3's request to terminate Andrew Bennedum for failure to complete the yearly requirements and lack of interest.

All in favor: 3 (McCartney, Harrington, Purdy) Opposed: None Absent: 2 (Kirchheimer, Tomko).
Motion carried.

11.6 Motion by Commissioner Purdy, seconded by Commissioner Harrington to approve Station #3's request to terminate Michael Langeland for failure to complete the yearly requirements and lack of interest.

All in favor: 3 (McCartney, Harrington, Purdy) Opposed: None Absent: 2 (Kirchheimer, Tomko).
Motion carried.

12. Commissioner Report

a. Commissioner McCartney – Administrative/Policy

- A commissioner reported on administrative matters, including the resolution of a resident complaint about the Station Four siren.
- The commissioner is managing administrative personnel matters and assisted with taking Midi 32-2 to a vendor.
- The policy for the Station Four siren will not change. It will continue to be activated for fire calls.



VESTAL FIRE DISTRICT

1136 Front Street, Suite 01
Vestal • New York • 13850
Phone: 607-797-2756
www.vestalfiredistrict.org

**Board of
Fire Commissioners**
David Harrington
Daniel Kirchheimer
Thomas McCartney
Keith Purdy
Mark Tomko

- Commissioner McCartney would like the board's final position on the Station Four siren issue communicated to their respective members.
- Progress on the training site facility was reported, confirming compliance with NFPA 1403 standards
- A 5-year and 20-year facilities forecasting plan is being developed by Commissioner Harrington, himself, and Commissioner Kirchheimer.
- A meeting is scheduled for tomorrow (2026-05-21) with Commissioner Kirchheimer to discuss the salary plan, staffing plan, and recurring facilities maintenance costs.

b. Commissioner Harrington – Financial/Records Management/Quality Assurance/LOSAP

- The finance report outlined the 2027 budget timeline and progress on capital and financial forecasting.
- 2027 Budget Timeline:
 - May-June: Fire District Treasurer prepares a draft department budget.
 - May 14 (Past): Fire Commissioners submitted their operational area needs.
 - End of May: District Fire Chief and Assistant Chiefs met to review.
 - June 9: Treasurer will provide a revised overall draft budget to commissioners.
 - June 11: A work session is scheduled for commissioners to review the draft budget with the Fire District Chief.
- The District Purchasing Director has been asked for a list of outstanding submittals from any fire districts.
- The 5-year/20-year financial forecast has been updated with the draft fleet replacement plan.
- The grants and funding report detailed current grant opportunities and progress on the Fred Singer facility fundraising platform.
- Updates were provided for the funding and grants meeting schedule and records management progress.
- The next Funding and Grants committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 2, 2026 (corrected from May 5th).
- The Records Management committee met on May 6, 2026; the next meeting is June 3, 2026.
- Fire Report Status:
 - February 2026 reports were submitted to New York State.
 - 50% of March 2026 reports are done; the remainder are due to NYS by May 29, 2026.
- Points Reporting Status:
 - February 2026 points were distributed to stations.
 - March 2026 points are targeted for distribution to stations by May 29, 2026.

c. Commissioner Tomko – Training/Safety Programs/Fred Singer Training Facility

- Commissioner Tomko is looking into the Fitness program reimbursement policy which is under legal review
 1. Fred Singer Training Facility Director



VESTAL FIRE DISTRICT

1136 Front Street, Suite 01
Vestal • New York • 13850
Phone: 607-797-2756
www.vestalfiredistrict.org

**Board of
Fire Commissioners**
David Harrington
Daniel Kirchheimer
Thomas McCartney
Keith Purdy
Mark Tomko

-
- Training site budget (for 2027):
 - Bruce Willis submitted documentation for the 2027 budget.
 - Proposal: Install blacktop or concrete pads for auto extrication training; quote from Pritchard at \$35,900.
 - Safety rationale: Easier cleanup of glass; improve safety.
 - Cost options: Approximately \$1,200 discount if choosing blacktop over concrete.
 - Potential funding: \$35,900 could be part of the 2027 county grant.
 - Ongoing engagement with county legislators to support funding; advice is to keep applying for grants.
 - 2. Director of Training/Safety Programs
 - Accidents reported:
 - Engine 4: Accident occurred; “damage was made”; no reports have been submitted.
 - Utility 1: Accident occurred; “very minor damage”; reports have been submitted or are incoming.
 - Equipment procurement:
 - Proposal to purchase new structural firefighting gloves is on hold due to questions; plan to revisit and report back.
 - Unauthorized gear use and modifications:
 - Members have been purchasing and using non-issued equipment and making changes (including painting helmets) without prior authorization.
 - Liability concerns: Modifications may not meet NFPA standards; no authorization letters; uncertified alterations.
 - Director of Training & Safety Derek Waddell emphasizes requirement for prior approval for gear changes to mitigate liability.
 - Safety and compliance:
 - Prior authorization is mandatory for any gear purchases or changes (e.g., helmets, painting).
 - Ongoing kickback when safety raises questions; lack of documentation on NFPA compliance for modified gear.
 - Difficulty of enforcement
 - Clarification request on corrective efforts and member responsiveness.
 - Director Waddell describes glove-related injuries and proposes standardizing issued gloves.
 - Broader equipment review planned; helmets changes noted as another area of concern.
 - Responsibility for gear compliance oversight is unclear; need for defined authority to flag unsafe equipment.
 - Safety officer engagement initiated; standards require gear to meet or exceed department specifications; advisory board members implicated in non-compliant helmet painting.



VESTAL FIRE DISTRICT

1136 Front Street, Suite 01
Vestal • New York • 13850
Phone: 607-797-2756
www.vestalfiredistrict.org

**Board of
Fire Commissioners**
David Harrington
Daniel Kirchheimer
Thomas McCartney
Keith Purdy
Mark Tomko

- Directive to address helmet painting at the next advisory board; operational matters to be routed appropriately.
- Commitment to compliance and accountability; potential policy to restrict indemnity purchases; leadership to enforce discipline.
- Aftermarket modifications to protective equipment create liability; anecdotal remarks highlight risks and improper alterations.
- Expectation for safety and chiefs to escalate enforcement and report quality improvements next month's commissioner board meeting.
- Other Topics:
 - Director Waddell documents the use of proper channels and for plans of broader distribution of reports to ensure awareness
 - Training updates: recent and upcoming department trainings, including Mayday and planned live action in June.
 - Live fire training logistics: splitting stations, EMS coverage planning, and liaison coordination.
 - Station inspections audit and adoption of Red Alert system to improve gear tracking & logs.
 - Request to include Director Waddell and Safety Officer Eaton in upcoming facilities walk-around with Commissioner Kirchheimer and facilities team.

d. Commissioner Kirchheimer – Facilities/Information Technology/Physical Security/Human Resources

1. Director of Facilities
 2. Director of Physical Security
 3. Director of Information
- Reports condensed; facilities walkthrough findings:
 - Station Two: Generator reviewed; Station Four: Water in oil, suspected catastrophic but determined condensation; maintenance schedule adjusted.
 - Lawn care is performing well.
 - Station One: Truck room floor to be done this year; scope created, needs refinement; plan to get scope approved next time and go out to bid at next meeting.
 - Action Item: To finalize scope and present for approval next meeting; then go out to bid
 - Budget planning: Working with Director Dusty McCartney on 2027 budget; updating 5-year and 20-year capital improvement plan.
 - Overhead door was malfunctioning at Station Three; Overhead Door Binghamton responded on an emergency basis; issue resolved.
 - Security: Met with Director Colin White on May 18, working on budget and security issues.
 - IT: Working with Director Josh Fishback on laptop project for apparatus; still in queue; working on ESIP computer use class policy; various tickets handled as received.



VESTAL FIRE DISTRICT

1136 Front Street, Suite 01
Vestal • New York • 13850
Phone: 607-797-2756
www.vestalfiredistrict.org

**Board of
Fire Commissioners**
David Harrington
Daniel Kirchheimer
Thomas McCartney
Keith Purdy
Mark Tomko

- Member relations: Banquet planning to start soon; significant interest in gym membership.
- Commissioner McCartney noted gym membership had been mentioned; Commissioner Kirchheimer advised further work pending after discussion with Mark.
- Question raised about including DTL and Safety in walkthroughs. They will be included, but facilities should go first due to extensive minutiae; intention is to generate lists for budget planning.

e. Commissioner Purdy – Asset/Equipment/Fleet Management

1. Quartermaster Report

- Inventory was completed through the end of April 2026, with all items signed out.
- A recent order of yellow helmets was received, and another order is planned soon to accommodate new members.
- Helmets from a 2024 order exhibited cracking brims; Lion will replace the shells at no cost to the fire department.

2. Fleet Report

- Vehicles Out of Service:
 - Brush 32-1 (the old model) is behind the building awaiting auction.
 - Car 32 is out of service.
 - Engine 32-4 is out of service.
- A manufacturer's defect in the roll-up doors on all engines is causing service delays, with Engine 32-4's return being specifically impacted.
- The district is procuring new UTVs and Chief's vehicles, utilizing New York State bid processes to streamline purchasing and prioritize local vendors.
- The district is requesting the replacement of electric steamer inlet valves with manual Akron Revolution valves for all eight applicable trucks.
 - Action Item: Obtain new quotes for the replacement of eight (8) inlet valves with Akron Revolution manual valves.
- The district is obtaining a purchase quote for "Old Tower One" due to logistical challenges with keeping it as a reserve apparatus.
- A cultural shift is needed to encourage prompt and fearless reporting of all vehicle damage and operational issues through the fleet maintenance ticket system.
 - **Problem:** Three vehicles were damaged at a brush fire on 2026-05-19, but no fleet maintenance tickets have been submitted. There appears to be a "phobia" about submitting tickets.
 - **Clarification of Intent:** The ticket system is for identifying damage to the vehicle, not for placing blame on the driver or crew. The goal is repair and data collection, not personnel punishment.
 - **Consequences of Non-Reporting:**
 - If an issue is not reported, it cannot enter the repair process.



VESTAL FIRE DISTRICT

1136 Front Street, Suite 01
Vestal • New York • 13850
Phone: 607-797-2756
www.vestalfiredistrict.org

**Board of
Fire Commissioners**
David Harrington
Daniel Kirchheimer
Thomas McCartney
Keith Purdy
Mark Tomko

- Failure to track and repair damage, especially to components like steps and handrails, creates a significant liability risk, as falls from apparatus are a major hazard.
- **Call to Action:** The Fire Department administration needs to help promote a culture where members feel comfortable reporting any issue, including scratches, dents, broken components, or anything that "doesn't seem right" in the vehicle's operation.
- **Example of Successful Reporting:** The A/C on Engine 4 was reported as not working. A ticket was filed, allowing technicians to investigate. They found the unit simply needed to be turned on and performed a system charge. The problem was resolved because it was officially reported.
- A change order for Rescue 32-2's chassis has been finalized, saving \$25,000 by using a manufacturer, and also includes significant upgrades to the vehicle's capacity.
- **The department is responsible for ensuring new UTVs are not overweight, and vendor-provided training is not expected.**
- A close-call incident involving an ATV and a tree highlighted the importance of proper training and safety protocols.
- A proposal by Commissioner McCartney was made and accepted to officially add Bob Hamilton to the fleet team to provide specialized electronics and systems expertise.
- A plan was outlined to form a committee consisting of Commissioner McCartney, Commissioner Purdy, Director of Purchasing Paige Willes, and Fleet Chief Steve Langeland and upgrade vehicle camera systems for liability mitigation and improved vehicle health monitoring.
- An update was provided on the project to replace the department's obsolete Knox box system.
- A discussion was held regarding an unreported incident where Engine One sustained scratches from tree branches, emphasizing the need for consistent documentation.
- The cumbersome accident reporting process was identified as a barrier and an action was assigned to streamline it.

13. Director of Communications

- The Director of Communications Clay Ellis was commended for effective media management, and a recent public relations success was noted.
- Commissioner McCartney thanked the Director of Communications for his support over the past few weeks, crediting their efforts with satisfying the media, as evidenced by the lack of reporters at the current meeting.
- Director of Communications Clay Ellis highlighted a positive publicity event where Foam 32-4 was featured in news coverage of a car show at the Elderwood nursing home, describing it as "fantastic" and "good publicity."



VESTAL FIRE DISTRICT

1136 Front Street, Suite 01
Vestal • New York • 13850
Phone: 607-797-2756
www.vestalfiredistrict.org

**Board of
Fire Commissioners**
David Harrington
Daniel Kirchheimer
Thomas McCartney
Keith Purdy
Mark Tomko

14. Secretary Report

14.1 Motion by Commissioner Purdy, seconded by Commissioner Harrington to approve Commissioner McCartney to sign license agreement with the City of Binghamton Fire Department to use the Fred Singer Training Facility on June 30, 2026.

All in favor: 3 (McCartney, Harrington, Purdy) Opposed: None Absent: 2 (Kirchheimer, Tomko).
Motion carried.

14.2 Motion by Commissioner Purdy, seconded by Commissioner Harrington to approve Commissioner McCartney to sign the lease associated and approve the receipt of \$1,000 check from West Endicott Fire Company for their annual renewal.

All in favor: 3 (McCartney, Harrington, Purdy) Opposed: None Absent: 2 (Kirchheimer, Tomko).
Motion carried.

14.3 A Saturday clinic for physicals and two dates for the advanced lift test have been scheduled and will be communicated to the membership.

- Secretary Susan Bowen will use "I am Responding" to notify the general membership about the physicals and advanced lift test.
- A separate email will be sent for transparency to the Chiefs, Captains, the Director of Training, Safety Officer, and Commissioners, detailing the dates and expectations.
- **Physicals Clinic Details:**
 - **Date & Time:** Saturday, June 13, 2026, from 7:45 AM to 12:30 PM.
 - **Location:** Jensen Road facility.
 - **Scheduling:** Appointments are in 15-minute increments, with each appointment lasting approximately 40 minutes.
- **Advanced Lift Test Details:**
 - **Prerequisite:** Members must have a completed physical before they can participate.
 - **Dates:** Monday, June 22, 2026, and Monday, July 13, 2026. The tests will run from 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM to allow members to attend training afterward.
 - **Scheduling:** The June 22nd date will be filled first before the July 13th date is opened.
 - **Unresolved Item:** Secretary Bowen needs to identify which station can be used for the test.

15. Elections (Annual or Special) - None

16. Treasurer Report

16.1 Motion by Commissioner Purdy, seconded by Commissioner Harrington to approve April 2026 Balance Sheet, Profit & Loss, and Budget vs. Actual report. All reports and bank reconciliations were reviewed by Commissioner Harrington.

All in favor: 3 (McCartney, Harrington, Purdy) Opposed: None Absent: 2 (Kirchheimer, Tomko).
Motion carried.



VESTAL FIRE DISTRICT

1136 Front Street, Suite 01
Vestal • New York • 13850
Phone: 607-797-2756
www.vestalfiredistrict.org

**Board of
Fire Commissioners**
David Harrington
Daniel Kirchheimer
Thomas McCartney
Keith Purdy
Mark Tomko

16.2 Motion by Commissioner Purdy, seconded by Commissioner Harrington to accept a check from the Town of Vestal in the amount of \$5,415.50 for the remaining Fred Singer Trust Fund. \$5,166.86 to be deposited into Account 440 (Due from Government) and \$248.64 to be deposited into Account 2401 (Training Site Interest & Earnings).

All in favor: 3 (McCartney, Harrington, Purdy) Opposed: None Absent: 2 (Kirchheimer, Tomko).
Motion carried.

16.3 Motion by Commissioner Purdy, seconded by Commissioner Harrington to accept a check from PERMA in the amount of \$2,061.00 to be deposited into A9040.8 (Workers Compensation).

All in favor: 3 (McCartney, Harrington, Purdy) Opposed: None Absent: 2 (Kirchheimer, Tomko).
Motion carried.

16.4 Motion by Commissioner Purdy, seconded by Commissioner Harrington to accept a check from Chenango Bridge Fire Company Inc. in the amount of \$500 for use on May 2, 2026.

All in favor: 3 (McCartney, Harrington, Purdy) Opposed: None Absent: 2 (Kirchheimer, Tomko).
Motion carried.

16.5 Motion by Commissioner Purdy, seconded by Commissioner Harrington to approve the 12/31/2025 Annual Financial Report as filed with NYS Audit and Control on April 27, 2026 (extended due date was April 30, 2026). The AFR was reviewed by the independent auditor prior to submitting.

All in favor: 3 (McCartney, Harrington, Purdy) Opposed: None Absent: 2 (Kirchheimer, Tomko).
Motion carried.

17. Approval to Properly Audit and Pay Claims as Submitted

17.1 Motion by Commissioner Purdy, seconded by Commissioner Harrington to approve the Audit of Claims for 2026 Expenses dated May 21, 2026, in total amount of \$161,433.44.

All in favor: 3 (McCartney, Harrington, Purdy) Opposed: None Absent: 2 (Kirchheimer, Tomko).
Motion carried.

18. Director of Purchasing Report

18.1 Discussion on purchase of (5) Fire Command Third Edition (2026) By Alan and Nick Brunacini for All Chiefs.

Motion by Commissioner Purdy, seconded by Commissioner Harrington purchase of (5) Fire Command Third Edition (2026) By Alan and Nick Brunacini for All Chiefs at a cost of \$150 each.

All in favor: 3 (McCartney, Harrington, Purdy) Opposed: None Absent: 2 (Kirchheimer, Tomko). Motion carried.

18.2 Discussion regarding purchase of (1) Milwaukee M18 Fuel 16in. Battery Chainsaw, (1) Milwaukee M18 Fuel 120 mph Handheld Blower, (1) 4pk. Milwaukee M18 18V Red Lithium Forge HD 12.0 Battery Pack, and (1) Milwaukee M18 18V Dual Bay Rapid Battery Charger for Brush 32-1 as Part of the DEC Grant, acknowledging an overage beyond the grant threshold.



VESTAL FIRE DISTRICT

1136 Front Street, Suite 01
 Vestal • New York • 13850
 Phone: 607-797-2756
www.vestalfiredistrict.org

**Board of
 Fire Commissioners**
 David Harrington
 Daniel Kirchheimer
 Thomas McCartney
 Keith Purdy
 Mark Tomko

Motion by Commissioner Purdy, seconded by Commissioner Harrington to purchase of (1) Milwaukee M18 Fuel 16in. Battery Chainsaw, (1) Milwaukee M18 Fuel 120 mph Handheld Blower, (1) 4pk. Milwaukee M18 18V Red Lithium Forge HD 12.0 Battery Pack, and (1) Milwaukee M18 18V Dual Bay Rapid Battery Charger for Brush 32-1

All in favor: 3 (McCartney, Harrington, Purdy) Opposed: None Absent: 2 (Kirchheimer, Tomko). Motion carried.

Equitable distribution concern was addressed: Station Four received nothing for brush equipment; commitment to address fairness across all stations and document in minutes.

- The Commissioners acknowledged to the unfairness and addressed the distribution needed across all four stations.
- Station Four representatives noted they had no requests and were unaware of purchases.
- The concern was documented and plan to address the need for equitable distribution in future planning (2026/2027 frames).

18.3 Motion by Commissioner Purdy, seconded by Commissioner Harrington to approve the bank card expenses from April 2026 in the amount of \$17,407.03.

All in favor: 3 (McCartney, Harrington, Purdy) Opposed: None Absent: 2 (Kirchheimer, Tomko). Motion carried.

18.4 Motion by Commissioner Purdy, seconded by Commissioner Harrington to approve all Chief's Monthly Mileage Reports from April 22, 2026, to May 20, 2026.

All in favor: 3 (McCartney, Harrington, Purdy) Opposed: None Absent: 2 (Kirchheimer, Tomko). Motion carried.

18.5 Motion by Commissioner Harrington, seconded by Commissioner Purdy to approve the following budget transfers:

From Line Item	To Line Item	Amount Requested	Explanation
A917 (Unallocated Fund Balance)	A3410.413 (Buildings & Grounds)	\$ 24,460.50	Cover Emergency Expense for Electrical Services at Station 3
A3410.202 (Operational Fire Equipment)	A3410.410 (Operational Materials, Supplies)	\$ 1,325.96	Cover Expense for PAC Tools for New Brush 32-3

All in favor: 3 (McCartney, Harrington, Purdy) Opposed: None Absent: 2 (Kirchheimer, Tomko). Motion carried.



VESTAL FIRE DISTRICT

1136 Front Street, Suite 01
Vestal • New York • 13850
Phone: 607-797-2756
www.vestalfiredistrict.org

**Board of
Fire Commissioners**
David Harrington
Daniel Kirchheimer
Thomas McCartney
Keith Purdy
Mark Tomko

18.6 Motion Commissioner Harrington, seconded by Commissioner Purdy to approve the purchase of (1) TFT Blitzfire OSC Combo Package- 2.5" NH, Monitor, Bracket, Stack Tips & Straightener with a shipping cost of \$80.00, for a total amount of \$6,054.98 from Colden Enterprises. This will come from the Foam District Budget.

All in favor: 3 (McCartney, Harrington, Purdy) Opposed: None Absent: 2 (Kirchheimer, Tomko).
Motion carried.

18.7 Motion Commissioner Harrington, seconded by Commissioner Purdy to approve the purchase of (3) Elkhart Chief XD 1.5" Nozzles, 175gpm @ 75 psi with a shipping cost of \$65.00 for a total amount of \$3,142.34 from Colden Enterprises. This will come out of Station 4 Budget.

All in favor: 3 (McCartney, Harrington, Purdy) Opposed: None Absent: 2 (Kirchheimer, Tomko).
Motion carried.

19. Policies and Procedures

20. Unfinished Business

20.1 Motion Commissioner Harrington, seconded by Commissioner Purdy, to approve the change order request from Tri-Star Industries Limited for New Rescue 32-2 in the amount of \$76,150. This is for the chassis upgrade from F600 to M2 106 Freightliner 4x4 with DD8 engine, TS1 Body on the Freightliner, additional transverse compartment roll up doors x2, prep & paint to body and doors, compartment interior finish coating and slide master/tray upgrade.

All in favor: 3 (McCartney, Harrington, Purdy) Opposed: None Absent: 2 (Kirchheimer, Tomko). Motion carried.

21. New Business

21.1 Motion by Commissioner Harrington, seconded by Commissioner Purdy to approve Commissioner McCartney to reach out for quotes for leadership training from D5 Consulting Group Inc.

All in favor: 3 (McCartney, Harrington, Purdy) Opposed: None Absent: 2 (Kirchheimer, Tomko). Motion carried.

21.2 Discussion on communication from Assistant Chief Bill Stout regarding a request from the United Methodist Church to borrow approximately 30 cones for a car show on June 6, during Front Street Day. Motion by Commissioner Harrington, seconded by Commissioner Purdy allowing the United Methodist Church to borrow approximately 30 cones for a car show on June 6, during Front Street Day. Fire Department personnel to drop off the Traffic Trailer the night before and to pick it back up at the end of the event.

All in favor: 3 (McCartney, Harrington, Purdy) Opposed: None Absent: 2 (Kirchheimer, Tomko). Motion carried.

21.3 Notification of removing Old Midi 32-3 and Old Station 4 from Smith Brother's Insurance. Will receive a check from both in the amount of \$3,744.98 to be deposited upon receipt.



VESTAL FIRE DISTRICT

1136 Front Street, Suite 01
Vestal • New York • 13850
Phone: 607-797-2756
www.vestalfiredistrict.org

**Board of
Fire Commissioners**
David Harrington
Daniel Kirchheimer
Thomas McCartney
Keith Purdy
Mark Tomko

Motion by Commissioner Harrington, seconded by Commissioner Purdy to authorize the treasurer to deposit the check in the amount of \$3,744.98 from Smith Brother's Insurance upon receipt.
All in favor: 3 (McCartney, Harrington, Purdy) Opposed: None Absent: 2 (Kirchheimer, Tomko). Motion carried.

Commissioner Kirchheimer arrived at approximately 8:30 p.m.

21.4 Motion by Commissioner Harrington, seconded by Commissioner Purdy to approve to write a check to Lighthouse Electric for repair of electrical lines for the AC units at Station 3 in the amount of \$1,380.00.
All in favor: 4 (McCartney, Kirchheimer, Harrington, Purdy) Opposed: None Absent: 1 (Tomko) Motion Carried.

21.5 Discussion on New Fencing for Station 4.

Details and justification for Station Four Mezzanine security fence; single quote obtained; specifications reviewed.

- Only quote obtained from Budget Fence of America (near state prevailing wage); other companies did not respond despite multiple attempts.
- Purpose: Secure mezzanine space, prevent items from falling; meets required specifications.
- Budget note: Money was placed in building/grounds budget last year, estimated ~\$3,500; will identify suitable budget topic for coverage; categorized as security and safety.

Motion by Commissioner Kirchheimer, seconded by Commissioner Purdy to go with Budget Fence of America to install fencing around the mezzanine in the amount of \$4,780.00.

All in favor: 4 (McCartney, Kirchheimer, Harrington, Purdy) Opposed: None Absent: 1 (Tomko) Motion Carried.

21.6 Approval for process payment to Bob Murphy, Inc. for work completed at the Fred Singer Training Facility in the amount does not exceed \$30,045.

Per Director of Purchasing Paige Willes, this request was added to the claims list for approval and did not need a separate approval for payment.

21.7 Motion by Commissioner Purdy, seconded by Commissioner Kirchheimer to approve using New York State's OGS Mini Bid process to purchase to chief's vehicles (command cars) in the NYS Vehicle Marketplace not-to-exceed \$70,000 each.

All in favor: 4 (McCartney, Kirchheimer, Harrington, Purdy) Opposed: None Absent: 1 (Tomko) Motion Carried.

22. Resolutions - None

23. Announcements

23.1 Regular District Meeting will be June 24, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. at Station #3



VESTAL FIRE DISTRICT

1136 Front Street, Suite 01
Vestal • New York • 13850
Phone: 607-797-2756
www.vestalfiredistrict.org

**Board of
Fire Commissioners**
David Harrington
Daniel Kirchheimer
Thomas McCartney
Keith Purdy
Mark Tomko

23.2 Special Meeting dates for Work Session for 2027 Budget

June 11, 6:30 p.m.
June 16, 6:30 p.m.
July 15, 6:30 p.m.
August 12, 6:30 p.m.
September 02, 6:30 p.m.

Commissioner McCartney returned to Commissioner Reports for Commissioner Kirchheimer to give his report.

24. Public Input Session – No one from the public spoke.

25. Executive session was not needed at this time.

26. Motion by Commissioner Harrington, seconded by Commissioner Purdy to adjourn the meeting at 8:41 p.m.
All in favor: 4 (McCartney, Kirchheimer, Harrington, Purdy) Opposed: None Absent: 1 (Tomko) Motion Carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan Bowen
Fire District Secretary