

Glenville Fire District #7 – Commissioner’s Meeting
Thomas Corners
5 Airport Road, Glenville, New York 12302

Wednesday, May 10, 2023
6:00 PM

Present: Chairman Dale Graves, Vice Chairman Mike Sgambati, Commissioners Wayne Penn, Edward Wierzbowski and Robert Bruce, Secretary, Terri Petricca; Treasurer Tammy Stocker; Chief Dan Vlainich and Assistant Chief Garth Riccio

MOTION: The minutes of the regular monthly meeting of April 12, 2023 and the special meeting held on April 25, 2023 are approved.

Moved by: M. Sgambati
Seconded: W. Penn
Ayes: Five
Noes: None

MOTION CARRIED

Privilege of the floor was opened.

Vinny Gramuglia spoke regarding his dissatisfaction with the way the Chief handled the suspensions of 11 company members by putting letters in their lockers and the Chiefs refusal to discuss the suspensions and other firematic issues at the company meetings. V. Gramuglia said he received a report of the calls he made and was the responder with the most calls answered over the past 4 months. V. Gramuglia believes he and the other members are due more respect from the Chief than they’ve been given. D. Vlainich responded that he has made it clear that all firematic issues will not be addressed at company meetings. They need to go through the firematic liaison. D. Vlainich said he put this plan in place so that inactive members don’t get off topic and discuss issues not appropriate at a meeting. V. Gramuglia reiterated his belief that the Chief needs to show respect. V. Gramuglia left the meeting at this point.

E. Wierzbowski asked the D. Vlainich if V. Gramuglia received the same letter as the other members suspended. D. Vlainich said that he did. He further stated that he made special arrangements so that V. Gramuglia could make up the missed course as soon as he returned from Florida. It’s the same process for everyone, no exceptions. The drills are offered several times.

M. Sgambati, firematic liaison, said that none of the suspended members contacted him. B. Bruce asked if there was an opportunity to complete the courses/drills prior to his leaving for Florida. G. Riccio said there was not.

With nobody else wishing to speak, the privilege of the floor was closed.

Chief's Report
Calls

April 1st, 2023 - April 3th, 2023 Call Report

Incident Type	Number of Incidents	Total Hours
Alarm of Fire	9	323
Mutual Aid Standby	3	133
Motor Vehicle Accidents	2	11
Gas Leak	1	5
Carbon Monoxide	1	3
Lock Out	1	0.5
Emergency Medical Service (EMS)	44	3,596
Total	61	4,071.5

Drill/Truck Check Schedule

Topic	Date
Drill - Auto Extrication and Rescue Jacks	5/9/23 & 5/12/23
Truck Check	5/16/23 & 4/19/23
Drill - Firefighter Decon	5/23/23 & 5/26/23
5th Tuesday Company Detail	5/30/23 & 6/2/23

Personnel

Our current staffing level is currently at 28 Active Firefighters which includes 4 Probationary Firefighters and 1 Firefighter with Restrictions.

No Firefighters out on medical.

One Firefighter is attending BEFO.

1 Firefighter has been temporarily suspended from firematic duty until their annual training has been completed.

Operational Report

Engine 2724 has been returned to service.

Ellis Works performed our annual respirator fit tests in April.

We have finished up our annual mandatory OSHA/PESH training for 2023. As stated in the "Personnel" section, 1 Firefighter has been temporarily suspended from firematic activities until their annual training has been completed. Originally, 11 Firefighters were temporarily suspended from firematic activities for not completing a portion(s) of their annual training by the extended deadline of May 1st, 2023. The individuals temporarily suspended from firematic activities were notified through written notice and via an "I Am Responding" message. The Office of the Fire Chief understands the frustrations and shortcomings of issuing temporary firematic suspension however, training due dates were set and communicated at Company meetings, drills and truck checks along with the consequences if the training was not completed. The original due date of April 1st, 2023 was extended twice and the Firematic Officers provided additional opportunities for those who needed to complete their mandatory training.

As we progress through the year drills will be held to learn and refresh our skills. Each Firefighter has a training packet in the training binder located in the Radio Room with the attributes needed to maintain proficiency in accordance with the New York State Best Practices. We have asked all Firefighters to attend as many drills as possible to ensure the proficiency attributes are met per the Thomas Corners Fire Department Policy 108 "Training Requirements".

Mike Vaccara has accepted the position as the dedicated Safety Officer for the Department. I have bench marked with our mutual aid departments as to how Safety Officers are being identified and will be requesting a generic Safety Officer helmet shield to help identify Mike's new role.

I have asked Bob Panerese, Kate Phillips and Tom Green to start the process of switching our ePCR program from Zoll EMS Charts to the State's ePCR system. The State's system is free and seems to be more suited for first response agencies. As we progress through the process training will be provided prior to switching systems.

I was unable to attend the active shooter response task force (RTF) informational meeting held at Schenectady County Community College due to the Company meeting being held on the same date and time.

Several Firefighters have decided to move up to Class B Firefighters, SCBA qualified Exterior Firefighters. Additional masks and PPE may be needed moving forward, any PPE needed will be provided next month. A question of, should Class B Firefighters be part of the cancer bill has risen. D. Graves responded

that they would be included only if they are active interior with at least 5 years of service.

Equipment Report

2 SCBA regulators need to be repaired after sustaining damage.

8 new SCBA masks have been received from the vendor.

The Accountability Board and New York hooks have been ordered. All vehicle inventories have been completed. We will be performing equipment inventories this month on radios, gear and hose. The SL40 inventory will also be finished during the month of May.

The battery operated ventilation fan has continued to lose charge when in storage. We are asking the District to look into the feasibility and cost to run a 120VAC outlet, powered by shore power, to be installed into the driver's side rear compartment of 2775 for the fan to be plugged into to remain charged. D. Graves responded that GDPW can do this. D. Vlainich will reach out to them.

Topic(s) of Discussion/Outstanding Items

I am asking the District to look into hiring a grant writer or having a Commissioner responsible for exploring and writing grants. D. Graves responded that he has been unable to find a grant writer. E. Wierzbowski mentioned that a name came up at the Town Chiefs meeting. This person may be willing to assist but would not likely take on the task entirely on his own. D. Vlainich was given the go ahead from the commissioners to look around for a writer. If found, the commissioners would interview them.

The Chiefs would like to work with one of the Commissioners to incorporate the Department Policies into the District Policies. This will help limit any duplication or confusion as to which policies, procedures, guidelines dictate the different parts of our business. D. Graves said the commissioners just recently reviewed their policies and made necessary updates and changes. They will not be doing it again so soon. Perhaps the chief should look at making changes to his policies to match the district's. M. Sgambati said the company has their policies that they should enforce, and the district has their own policies that the district enforces. They are two separate entities. However, he is open to look at anything the chief would provide.

D. Graves asked about the status of the PCR's. D. Vlainich and W. Penn both said people on the state side need to be trained, which could be a couple of months. D. Vlainich would rather not rush into the new system. The commissioners want this to be figured out soon.

Requests

Qty.	Description	Supplier	Not to Exceed	Line Item
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1	Safety Officer Helmet Shield	Dival	\$50.00	A3410.204
2	Accountability Tag	Fire Safety USA	15.00/ea.	A3410.211

MOTION: To approve the purchase of 1 safety officer helmet shield from Dival at a cost of \$50 from A3410.204 and 2 accountability tags from Fire Safety USA at a cost of \$15/each from A3410.211.

Moved by: W. Penn

Seconded by: M. Sgambati

Ayes: Five

Noes: None

MOTION CARRIED

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Boundaries

B. Bruce:

- There are no boundary signs anymore.

There was a discussion regarding the new development on Dutch Meadows Lane and who's district it is in. TCFD has been dispatched, however it was believed this development is in Scotia's district. It was suggested that someone look at the maps at Town Hall.

Equipment

M. Sgambati:

- Hose test scheduled for Saturday, Aug. 5. Someone needs to be here to move the trucks around.
- Air Packs:
 - Received quotes from both Dival and MES. MES is allowing for \$13,000 trade in on our old air packs. He suggested considering setting aside money allotted in the 2023 budget, budgeting money for 2024 and ordering all new packs to be received early next year. This, rather than leasing. M. Sgambati will get with MES to discuss details.

W. Penn:

- New RAD57 to be delivered. There will be a \$249 repair charge on the credit card.
- Replacement part for suction is being sent.

Apparatus

D. Graves

- 278 & 279 – new wipers
- 278 – oil changed and inspected
- New Vehicles:
 - Lots of delays due to supply shortages.
 - The auto stop cannot be removed.
 - Hopefully they will be delivered soon.

Building & Grounds

B. Bruce:

- The broken stop on door #1 was replaced.
- Toilets to be repaired by G. Petricca (it was noted after the meeting that this has been done)
- Door sweeps to be put on by G. Petricca.
- B. Bruce will look into having the potholes at the driveway entrances filled.

E. Wierzbowski:

- Left a message with Maggs regarding the lawn but he hasn't heard back yet.
- The new AV system is pretty much all set. A new projector bulb should be in Friday. Training will be set up.
- One of the doors has some rust and the threshold should be replaced. B. Bruce will contact Phillips for it.

D. Graves:

- Building Use requests:
 - Tiny Town Day Care 6/23 for their graduation ceremony. – Approved
 - Tiny Town Day Care for a Mother's Day program. – Denied E. Wierzbowski asked why D. Graves approved the graduation ceremony use and not the Mother's Day use. D. Graves explained that the district does not rent out or let non members use the building/grounds for parties. The district has allowed the graduation ceremony in the past to be good neighbors and the ceremony doesn't last long. A Mother's Day program would be more than that. We don't want to be put into a situation where we feel obligated to allow uses such as this by letting Tiny Town hold the program here.
 - R. Conley 5/20 for an EMT course in the pole barn as Red Cross will be in the building that day. – Approved.
- Skyway plaza cleaned up along the fence line.
- The meeting room door wasn't latching. Phillips made the repairs.

Old Business

E. Wierzbowski:

- Status of trucks being detailed? G. Riccio said they've all been done and look great.

D. Graves:

- Partial Property Tax Exemption public hearing was held and there were no comments from the public received. The commissioners had a couple of questions regarding the law and received clarification from Atty. Bill Young.

MOTION:

The Board of Fire Commissioners of Glenville Fire District #7 ("Fire District") at a Meeting held on the 10th day of May 2023, adopted the following resolution by majority vote:

WHEREAS, pursuant to Chapter 670 of the Laws of 2022 effective December 9, 2022, the state Real Property Tax Law was amended by adding a new §466-a authorizing local governments including fire districts, to enact by resolution a ten (10%) percent partial real property tax exemption of the assessed value of the primary residence owned by a qualified enrolled member of an incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department or incorporated volunteer ambulance service that serves the city, town or village where the Fire District is located; and

WHEREAS, the intent of this Resolution is to permit the partial real property tax exemption for qualified enrolled members of said emergency services organizations for real property taxes imposed by the Fire District; and

WHEREAS, on April 25, 2023, after providing the statutorily required notice, a Public Hearing was conducted by the Fire District to solicit input and to hear all persons interested in the partial real property tax exemption of the assessed value of the primary residence owned by a qualified enrolled member of said emergency service organizations that serve the Fire District; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the primary residential real property located in the Fire District that is owned by an enrolled member of a volunteer fire company, volunteer fire department or incorporated voluntary ambulance service that provide services within the city, town or village which is served by the Fire District shall be exempt from taxation and assessments levied by the Fire District to the extent of ten percent (10%) of the assessed value of such property, exclusive of special assessments, subject to the requirements set forth in this herein; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that for purposes of this Resolution the “Authority Having Jurisdiction” shall mean the Board of Fire Commissioners of the Fire District;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that such exemption shall not be granted unless:

A. The applicant resides in the Fire District which is served by the above listed incorporated volunteer fire company, volunteer fire department or incorporated voluntary ambulance service of which the applicant is a qualified enrolled member;

B. the property is the primary residence of the applicant;

C. the property is used exclusively for residential purposes; provided, however, that if 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 Resolution; and

D. the applicant has been certified by 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 years; and

E. the applicant must submit such certification together with the tax exemption application to the local assessor.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that any enrolled member of an incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department or incorporated voluntary ambulance service who accrues more than twenty years of active service, and is so certified by the authority having jurisdiction for the incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department or incorporated voluntary ambulance service, shall be granted the ten percent (10%) exemption authorized by this Resolution for the remainder of his or her life as long as his or her primary residence is located within the Fire District, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the property tax exemption authorized by this Resolution and granted to an enrolled member of an incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department, or incorporated voluntary ambulance service shall, upon application, be continued to such deceased enrolled member's un-remarried spouse if such member is killed in the line of duty, provided that:

A. Such un-remarried spouse is certified by the authority having jurisdiction for the incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department, or incorporated voluntary ambulance service as an un-remarried spouse of such enrolled member who was killed in the line of duty;

B. such deceased volunteer had been an enrolled member for at least five (5) years; and

C. such deceased volunteer had been receiving the exemption prior to his or her death, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the property tax exemption authorized by this Resolution and granted to an enrolled member of an incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department, or incorporated voluntary ambulance service shall, upon application, be continued to such deceased enrolled member's un-remarried spouse, provided that:

A. Such un-remarried spouse is certified by the authority having jurisdiction for the incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department, or incorporated voluntary ambulance service as an un-remarried spouse of such enrolled member;

B. such deceased volunteer had been an enrolled member for at least twenty (20) years;

and

C. such deceased volunteer and un-remarried spouse had been receiving the exemption for such property prior to the death of such volunteer, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an application form for such exemption and a certification provided by the appropriate authority having jurisdiction shall be filed with the Assessor for the Town on or before the taxable status date of each year or as otherwise required as prescribed by New York State, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that no applicant who is a volunteer firefighter or volunteer ambulance worker who by reason of such status is receiving any benefit under the provisions of Article 4 of the state Real Property Tax Law on the effective date

of this Resolution shall suffer any diminution of such benefit because of the provisions of this Resolution, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution shall take effect immediately.

Motion to adopt the Resolution made by Commissioner Penn

Seconded by Commissioner Bruce

On the Motion

Commissioner Penn: Aye

Commissioner Bruce: Aye

Commissioner Graves: Aye

Commissioner Sgambati: Aye

Commissioner Wierzbowski: Aye

MOTION CARRIED

New Business

D. Graves:

- Invoice from Dr. Buff in the amount of \$4,695. Everyone should be up to date now.

Finances

T. Stocker:

- NYS DEC Notice of Termination for outstanding permit has been submitted and accepted with confirmation that the district should no longer be billed the annual SPDES permit fee.
- AUD: Met with Bob Gramuglia and posted the outstanding journal entries from 2020 and 2021. Still off \$1,680 in the savings account from ending balance 2021 to beginning balance of 2022. Gramuglia is searching that, if unfounded will make appropriate journal entry to start 2023 with a clean slate. We also set up the proper accounts in quickbooks for Long Term Debt, Fixed Assests, Other Current Assets, etc. This will assist in better auditing and filing of AUD in the future.
- Payprep issued filing of Qtr 1, 2023 federal withholdings. In reviewing the document, noticed they still had Ben's name on it even though it was Dale's signature. Informed them of this error and they are to correct it going forward.
- Abstract/Invoices/Purchase slips: Just want to reiterate how important it is that purchase slips, including credit slips, get turned in. I keep a running tally on my voucher of such. Dival sent me an email stating that I shorted them, when in fact they forgot about a credit. It is also important to sign or initial them so I know someone accepted the goods or service.
- All vendors need to provide a W9 and certificate of insurance with workers compensation.
- Three incentive award vouchers have been received past the deadline. The district policy states the commissioners may approve late receipts if they choose.

MOTION: To accept the incentive award vouchers from 4 members that were submitted past the deadline and authorize the treasurer to pay them.

Moved by: W. Penn

Seconded by: B. Bruce

Ayes: Four

Noes: None

Abstain: D. Graves

MOTION CARRIED

- Upcoming dates:
 - 5/23: Financial report webinar
 - 6/7: Understanding the budget process webinar
 - 6/7-6/8: Annual audit
 - 6/28: OSC Local Government and School District training in Utica.

MOTION: Approval to allow Tammy Stocker, District Treasurer, to attend the training class in Utica, NY on 6/28 and to reimburse all necessary and permitted expenses.

Moved by: M. Sgambati

Seconded by: W. Penn

Ayes: Five

Noes: None

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION: To approve payment of V118-2023 through 147-2023 in the amount of \$19,245.37 and also to authorize the district treasurer to transfer funds from savings 0220 to the now checking 0215 in the sum of \$20,000.

Moved by:

Seconded:

Ayes: Five

Noes: None

MOTION CARRIED

With no further business to conduct the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted.

Terri Petricca