



# VESTAL FIRE DISTRICT BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONER REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

**Date: September 11, 2024**

**Present:**

Commissioner Maria Sexton  
Commissioner Sue Messina  
Commissioner Glenn Miller

**Others Present:**

Susan Bowen, Fire District Secretary  
Paige Willes-Brown, Director of Purchasing  
John Paffie, Fire Chief  
Daniel Kirchheimer, Dept. President

**Absent:**

Commissioner Stephen Donnelly  
Commissioner Robert Greene, Jr.

**Governance Committee:**

Chairman Thomas McCartney  
Member-Mark Tomko

The meeting was called to order at 5:02pm by Chairwoman Maria Sexton.

Chairwoman M. Sexton led the Pledge to the Flag to those present.

Chairwoman M. Sexton requests a moment of silence in remembrance of the events that occurred on this day.

Before Chairwoman M. Sexton turns the meeting over to Governance Committee Chairman T. McCartney, she wanted to state that this is the last meeting in this format where the Town Board will no longer be the Board of Fire Commissioners due to the separation. She wanted to reiterate once again, thank you to Governance Committee Chairman T. McCartney and every member of the Governance Committee in doing such a great job in all of the hard work. Also, wanted to thank Sue Bowen, Fire District Secretary and Paige Willes-Brown, Director of Purchasing as well for all the hard work that has been involved in this process.

## **01 – Approval of Minutes**

Motion by Commissioner Messina, seconded by Commissioner Miller to approve the minutes of the Fire District Meeting Minutes from August 28, 2024.

All in Favor: 3 Opposed: None Absent: 2.

## **02 – Correspondence:**

- Notification from Board of Elections of Polling Sites at Station 1, 2 and 3 for November 5<sup>th</sup> from 5:15am to 9:30pm.

## **03 – Secretary Report:**

- **RESOLUTION 157F-2024:**

Motion by Commissioner Messina, seconded by Commissioner Miller to terminate Station 2 Member Blaise Franzese-Moore based on Vestal Fire Department By-laws of Article 2

Section 1 Paragraph 5, Article 2, Section 4 Paragraph 1 and Article 3, Section 7, Paragraph 1.  
All articles listed pertain to Probationary Membership.  
All in Favor: 3 Opposed: None. Absent: 2.

#### **04 – Chief's Report**

-The Fire Department responded to approximately 30 calls this month, 14 calls being at Binghamton University. He wanted to report a status quote on moving forward with Vestal Fire Safety Expo at the Town Square Mall on October 5<sup>th</sup>. It will be a large event. State Police, Vestal Police, and EMS will be attending. The event is being broadcasted through social media, and flyers are being handed out to kids and the schools.

-Governance Committee Chairman T. McCartney asks about an open house at the New Station 4.

-Chief Paffie responds there is an open house for the New Station 4 on Saturday September 14<sup>th</sup> from 10am-2pm for a grand opening and would like to invite the Town Board.

-Governance Committee Chairman T. McCartney also questions an update on the foam mitigation. He believes that Asst. Chief Paffie has removed almost all of the foam off of Foam 4. There has been discussion with Buckeye and they may be moving the old foam from Old Station 4 to the Buckeye East Terminal.

-Chief Paffie added that Asst. Chief Paffie will be meeting with Craig Hiller, Highway Superintendent looking for assistance in pulling out some of the totes and seeing how they want to load them to get them down to Buckeye.

-Chief Paffie also noted that a contractor did come in and go through the tank farms. They did hydrant testing, and hydrant flows so they should have an idea where they stand as far as the foam mitigation goes if something was to happen on any of the 10 farm sites.

-In discussion with Asst. Chief Paffie, Governance Committee T. McCartney talks about how the new foam is not as robust as the old foam and it will take a different way to apply it and it will take more foam to do what we have previously done. So, it is changing the way we are going to have to fight any fires at the tank farms. It is also good that we plan on increasing the number of firefighters attending the Texas A & M Foam school next year. So, the biggest hazard of the protection is changing so it will be more a challenge.

-Commissioner S. Messina asks if the new foam requires a higher quantity to be used, would that mean that there will be a different procedure in applying the foam when it is needed.

-Governance Committee Chairman T. McCartney answers and explains that the new foam you cannot spray it as far as the old foam. It doesn't stick together as well. You can no longer subsurface inject it and that was one of the previous strategies. That is why it was decided to hire a consultant to come in and provide guidance on how to properly fight fires and it will

most likely increase the quantity of foam that is needed on hand. With the plan to replace the foam truck due to the age, a different strategy will be addressed for tank farm firefighting.

-Commissioner Messina asks about fire calls to Binghamton University. She wondered if just a Chief responds to calls. Chief Paffie explains Station 4 gets toned out. It's a detail for Engine 4. A Chief will respond which is usually Asst. Chief Paffie but if he is out of town or unavailable, then Chief Paffie will respond. If he is unavailable, then one of the junior fire officers will go, usually the Captain. Commissioner Messina states that some calls look like there are at a facility, rather than being cooking related. Chief Paffie explains the calls that are showing a building, is usually where animal testing and other things are happening. There was a fire call the other day for an odor of smoke in a hallway, which resulted in there was a roof hatch that was open and there was work being done on the roof. The hatch drew the smoke down the stairwell and that's where the smoke was coming from. Chief Paffie initially put Station 1, Station 2 and Station 3 on standby when the call came in just in case they would be needed for extra assistance but thankfully, they were not needed.

-There has been a lot more calls related to elevator rescues. Chief Paffie advises that Binghamton University might be possibly changing their policy. Asst. Chief Paffie has been talking to Dave Hubeny in regards to when Vestal Fire is going to be dispatched to Binghamton University. If someone is trapped in the elevator and there's no medical emergency, then they will wait for the elevator repair crew to be on site to come and take care of it. The positive side is whatever type of call that Vestal Fire responds to, Binghamton University police are dispatched and arrive pretty fast. They determine whether or not a real fire is occurring or if it's a false fire alarm as well as the Vestal Police arriving someplace that is not the campus. It allows the fire officers to escalate or deescalate the call very quickly. Governance Committee Chairman T. McCartney thinks it's a good partnership with the University.

-There was 1 mutual aid call to Endicott for a second alarm house fire. The department responded but had returned. The fire was caused by a cat and candle. The fire was extinguished upon arriving on scene.

\*The actual number of fire calls from August 28<sup>th</sup> to September 10<sup>th</sup> as recorded in the RedNMX Software is as follows

- 45 calls for the Fire Department
- 18 calls to Binghamton University
- 1 call requiring Mutual Aid Given and Returned- Endicott

#### **05 – Director of Purchasing Report:**

None

#### **06 – Treasurer's Report:**

- Receive and accept Check in the amount of \$90,000 from the Broome County Government.
- Received Warrant 2024-35F (08/30/2024) and Warrant 2024-36F (09/06/2024).

- **RESOLUTION 158F-2024:**

Presented the Abstract of Vouchers that were paid on 09/06/2024 and to be paid on 09/13/2024.

Motion by Commissioner Messina, seconded by Commissioner Miller to approve the Abstract of Vouchers.

All in Favor: 3 Opposed: None. Absent: 2.

- **RESOLUTION 159F-2024:**

On Motion to Resolve to adopt the Proposed 2025 Vestal Fire District Budget with a total appropriation, including the foam district, in the amount of \$2,864,011.

Motion by Commissioner Messina, seconded by Commissioner Miller to adopt the Proposed 2025 Vestal Fire District Budget.

All in Favor: 3 Opposed: None. Absent: 2.

### **07 – Bid Openings**

None

### **08 – Management, Oversight & Policy:**

**Governance Committee Report:** None

- Governance Committee Chair McCartney presented to the Fire Department Membership the timeline of events from June to October’s Dissolution / Formation to December’s Annual Election for Establishment of the Capital Reserves under the new Fire District.

-Governance Committee Chairman T. McCartney states that the message was very well received and there was no negative commentary. The members of the department are up to speed with what’s going on.

- Town of Vestal Town Board at their Board meeting tonight will accept the resignation of Firefighter Michael Petcosky from the Governance Committee and will appoint Daniel Kirchheimer to the Governance Committee.

### **09 – Finance / Records Management:**

**Governance Committee Report:** None

#### **Financial Consulting Activity for September:**

None

- **RESOLUTION 160F-2024:**

Motion by Commissioner Messina, seconded by Commissioner Miller to approve the following Budget Transfers:

Unallocated General Fund Balance to F3410 4000 in the amount \$149,200 for Professional Services (IT Services and Video Production).

F3410 4010 to F3410 4060 in the amount of \$103 to cover Batteries for Weather Stations

F3388 3388 to F3410 2255 in the amount of \$72,651 to cover the cost of the new Station 4 Air Compressor.

F3388 3388 to H0919 23400 in the amount \$8,447 to cover the overage in the project.  
F3388 3388 to F3410 4611R in the amount \$11,300 for the Small Community Grant Project.  
All in Favor: 3 Opposed: None. Absent: 2.

## **10 – Training / Safety:**

**Governance Committee Report:** None

- **RESOLUTION 161F-2024:**

Motion by Commissioner Messina, seconded by Commissioner Miller to approve the members of Station 3 to participate in a joint training with Apalachin Fire Department in Apalachin on Wednesday, September 25<sup>th</sup>.

All in Favor: 3 Opposed: None. Absent: 2.

## **11 – Building & Grounds / Quartermaster / IT:**

**Governance Committee Report:** None

- **RESOLUTION 162F-2024:**

Motion by Commissioner Messina, seconded by Commissioner Miller to approve for the Computer Shop to install CCTV Camera System and HID Proxy Door System (for 2 doors) at the New Fire District Office for a total cost of \$7,800.

All in Favor: 3 Opposed: None. Absent: 2.

- **RESOLUTION 163F-2024:**

Motion by Commissioner Messina, seconded by Commissioner Miller to approve for Grey Goose Graphics, LLC in the amount of \$6,975 for video production to promote the Fire Department and Fire District to the Community.

All in Favor: 3 Opposed: None. Absent: 2.

-Governance Committee Chairman T. McCartney explains hiring Grey Goose Graphics to provide 3 videos. One is an overview of the Fire District and the Fire Department. It would be a production very similar to what was produced for the ambulance squad. Same quality of production. They're producing a video on recruitment for the fire department and they're going to produce a video that is going to market the training site. So, we can get more fire departments interested in our training site and promote it. Ultimately, bring more revenue which will help sustain it and it'll become a better facility.

- **RESOLUTION 164F-2024:**

Motion by Commissioner Messina, seconded by Commissioner Miller to approve for Pyramid Business Systems, Inc to provide IT and Network Consulting and Support to the Vestal Fire District in an estimated cost of \$142,200. This cost includes set-up of Servers, connectivity, working with the Town IT to transfer of Fire District/Fire Department files to the Fire District and many other items related to the IT Consulting.

All in Favor: 3 Opposed: None. Absent: 2.

## **12 – Fleet Management:**

**Governance Committee Report:** None

- Requesting the Fire District Attorney to review the bids from the sale of Old Engine 3 to due questions of validity of the proposals.
- **RESOLUTION 165F-2024:**  
Motion by Commissioner Messina, seconded by Commissioner Miller to approve the purchase of the Chassis to Brush 32-1 and Brush 32-3 in the amount of \$78,000 each payable to Platinum Apparatus. This will be paid upon satisfactory completion of the Contract between the Fire District and the Vendor.  
All in Favor: 3 Opposed: None. Absent: 2.

## **13 – Old Business:**

None.

## **14 – New Business:**

None.

## **15 – Public Comments:**

None.

## **16 – Commissioners Comments:**

-Chairwoman M. Sexton wants to thank Governance Committee Chairman T. McCartney and every member of the Governance Committee for all of their work. It's great to hear that Dan will be joining the Governance Committee. It is on the agenda for the Town Board Meeting for approval. As always, she thanks all of the firefighters who works so hard all the time and on their own time and effort. She appreciates it and so do the residents.

-Commissioner S. Messina would like to thank you to everyone for all of their hard work to make this separation happen. It's been a very long road working for many years. She appreciates the dedication; the diligence and she applaud everyone for sticking to it. She looks forward for continuing to work together side by side. She also wanted to thank Sue Bowen, Fire District Secretary for keeping everyone in line.

-Commissioner G. Miller also wanted to thank everyone as well. He has not been involved that deeply or that often. But from what he has seen, there has been definite professionalism and thoroughness in the fire department and that's exactly what is needed and its exactly what Town of Vestal and the residents need as well.

**17 – Announcements**

-Vestal Station #4 will be having an open house on Saturday, September 14<sup>th</sup> from 10am to 2pm.

-Vestal Fire Safety Expo will be Saturday, October 5<sup>th</sup> from 10am to 2pm in the Barnes and Noble Parking Lot.

-Next meeting will be under the New Vestal Fire District will be advertised with a legal notice and online on or about October 7<sup>th</sup> in the Binghamton, Press and Sun-Bulletin.

Motion by Commissioner Messina, seconded by Commissioner Miller to adjourn the meeting at 5:22pm.

Respectfully Submitted

Susan Bowen  
Fire District Secretary