



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

Special Board of Fire Commissioner Meeting Minutes JULY 15, 2026

1. Present Thomas McCartney, Chairman
 Daniel Kirchheimer, Vice Chairman
 David Harrington, Commissioners
 Mark Tomko, Commissioner
 Keith Purdy, Commissioner

District Staff: Susan Bowen, Fire District Secretary
 Erika Pereira, Assistant Fire District Secretary- Absent
 Paige Willes-Brown, Director of Purchasing
 Marisa Butler, Fire District Treasurer
 Clay Ellis, Director of Communications- Absent

Others: Chuck Paffie, Fire Chief
 Bob Hamilton, 2nd Lieutenant, Station 2
 Steve Gallo, Captain, Station 3
 Don Albrecht, 2nd Lieutenant, Station 4

2. Meeting was called to order at 6:31p.m. by Commissioner McCartney.

3. Commissioner McCartney led the Pledge to Allegiance.

4. Work Session for 2027 Fire District Budget

This meeting consisted of a detailed, section-by-section review of the proposed 2027 Fire District budget across fire department station operations, district-wide services, facilities, administration, IT, training, personnel, and finances. The Board documented justifications, made targeted cuts and adjustments, established standardization strategies (TICs, gas meters, chainsaws, hoses), advanced reserve planning (SCBA, facilities), and set clear action items to finalize outstanding issues before the mid-August budget deadline.

Strategic Budget Alignment

The Fire Department is standardizing equipment with tightening financial controls to manage a 55% budget increase and align spending with long-term strategy including:

- Implement a formal, proactive replacement schedule for all critical equipment to prevent reactive, emergency purchases.
- Centralizing all equipment purchasing to enforce department-wide standards and eliminate fragmented, station-level decisions.
- Shifting eligible 2027 purchases to 2026 funds where it is possible to smooth out budget spikes.



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Capital & Maintenance Governance

Major projects and maintenance strategies are being re-evaluated to prioritize critical needs and defer non-urgent spending including

- Approving safety-critical replacements but mandate operational changes to prevent repeat failures.
- Deferring non-urgent capital projects, like the Station 2 boiler and comprehensive security upgrades, pending further analysis.
- Requiring a full lifecycle cost analysis for new assets, including any secondary costs like facility modifications.

5. Bid Openings – Conducted at 2 p.m. for the Concrete Resurfacing of Station 1 Apparatus Bay

- | | | |
|----|--|--|
| 1) | Daniel J. Lynch
300 Wayne Street
Endwell, N.Y. 13760 | Bid Price: \$42,338.00
Alternate Price: \$37,898.00 |
| 2) | Siteworx Inc. DBA: Worx Paint & Epoxy
2370 US Highway 11
Whitney Point, New York 13862 | Bid Price: \$32,475.00 |
| 3) | Upstate Concrete Coating
3925 Gates Road
Vestal, New York 13850 | Bid Price: \$52,800.00 |

Action deferred to next meeting pending analysis by Facilities.

6. Approval to Properly Audit and Pay Claims as Submitted

6.1 Motion by Commissioner Kirchheimer, seconded by Commissioner Tomko to approve the Audit and Claims for 2026 Expenses dated July 17, 2026, in total amount of \$64,417.87.

All in Favor: 5 (McCartney, Kirchheimer, Harrington Purdy, Tomko) Opposed: None. Absent: None.
Motion carried.

7. Unfinished Business

7.1 Motion by Commissioner Tomko, seconded by Commissioner Harrington to approve the purchase of (1) Econopak Skid Unit for ATV 1 (currently known as ATV 2) not to exceed \$15,000 from Sourcewell Contract (020124-CET) from Federal Safety Equipment. These funds will come out of Vehicle Maintenance Budget.

All in Favor: 5 (McCartney, Kirchheimer, Harrington Purdy, Tomko) Opposed: None. Absent: None.
Motion carried.

7.2 Motion by Commissioner Purdy, seconded by Commissioner Kirchheimer to approve Clean Harbors Environmental Services, Inc. to dispose of old PFAS foam residue in several 5 gallon buckets and barrels at Station 4 in the estimated amount of \$1,700.00. These funds will come out of the Foam District Budget.



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All in Favor: 5 (McCartney, Kirchheimer, Harrington Purdy, Tomko) Opposed: None. Absent: None.
Motion carried.

7.3 Motion by Commissioner Purdy, seconded by Commissioner Tomko to approve the purchase of (8) Akron Revolution 6" NH Long Handle x 5" Storz w/30-degree Intake Valve- with Cap & Chain & Drain Valves in the amount of \$19,800.00 from Twin Tier Fire & Safety Services.

All in Favor: 5 (McCartney, Kirchheimer, Harrington Purdy, Tomko) Opposed: None. Absent: None.
Motion carried.

7.4 Motion by Commissioner Tomko, seconded by Commissioner Kirchheimer to approve to write a check in the total amount of \$126,945.86 for the purchase of (2) 2026 Chevrolet 1500 Trail Boss 4WD (VIN#3GCUKFEL0TG399199 & VIN#3GCUKFEL6TG408245) to Matthews Chevrolet, Vestal NY for the purpose of replacing (2) existing Chief's vehicles.

All in Favor: 5 (McCartney, Kirchheimer, Harrington Purdy, Tomko) Opposed: None. Absent: None.
Motion carried.

8. New Business

8.1 Motion by Commissioner Kirchheimer, seconded by Commissioner Tomko to add the Alpine Software RedAlert Maintenance Suite to the annual subscription at a cost of \$2,000.00 per year.

The RedAlert Maintenance Suite offers end-to-end asset, equipment, and fleet management platform for truck checks, equipment inspections, hoses, SCBAs, inventory, maintenance, and work orders. Provides lifecycle tracking, automated notifications, mobile truck and SCBA check interfaces, and compliance reporting for apparatus and station assets. It includes reports such as monthly checklist and work order activity, Annual maintenance cost and labor breakdown by apparatus, Current asset valuation, and Truck checks completed by member over a selected time period Also included is RedAlert Mobile for NERIS input from a mobile device as an extension of RedAlert Desktop.

All in Favor: 5 (McCartney, Kirchheimer, Harrington Purdy, Tomko) Opposed: None. Absent: None.
Motion carried.

8.2 Motion by Commissioner Kirchheimer, seconded by Commissioner Tomko to add the Alpine Software RedAlert Kiosk System to the annual subscription at a cost of \$2,000.00 per year which includes first Kiosk Hardware Unit at no additional cost.

This is a Station-based kiosk platform for attendance tracking for CAD-driven call sign-ins, as well as sign-in for meetings, events and drills.

All in Favor: 5 (McCartney, Kirchheimer, Harrington Purdy, Tomko) Opposed: None. Absent: None.
Motion carried.

8.3 Motion by Commissioner, seconded by Commissioner to purchase one Kiosk Gen 5 system with the option to purchase two additional units at a cost of \$3,500.00 each.

This is a new computer with Windows 11 (with 3-year warranty), ELO Touch Screen (with 5-year warranty), Remote Support Access System, Standard Desk Mount or Wall Mount, 1 Finger reader device



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per kiosk included. - Mounting for finger readers included.*** Requires Power and LAN Connection ***-
This includes kiosk assembly.

All in Favor: 5 (McCartney, Kirchheimer, Harrington Purdy, Tomko) Opposed: None. Absent: None.
Motion carried.

9. Announcements – Upcoming Meetings of the Fire District

Regular Meeting on July 22, 2026, at 6:30 p.m.

Special Meeting for 2027 Fire District Budget on August 12, 2026, at 6:30 p.m.

Regular Meeting on August 26, 2026, at 6:30 p.m.

Special Meeting for 2027 Fire District Budget on September 2, 2026, at 6:30 p.m.

Regular Meeting on September 23, 2026, at 6:30 p.m.

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

11. Executive Session was not needed at this time.

12. Motion by Commissioner Kirchheimer, seconded by Commissioner Purdy to adjourn the meeting at 9:06 p.m.

All in Favor: 5 (McCartney, Kirchheimer, Harrington Purdy, Tomko) Opposed: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan Bowen
Fire District Secretary