

**WADING RIVER FIRE DISTRICT  
1503 North Country Road  
Wading River, NY 11792**

Minutes of February 13, 2023 Meeting

The meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners was called to order by Commissioner Deveny at 1830 hours with the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence for our First Responders, EMS, Police, Fire and Military who have made the ultimate sacrifice and the people of Turkey suffering from the recent earthquake.

Chairman McQueeney, Vice Chairman Moreno, Commissioner Deveny, Commissioner Wallace, Commissioner Meyer, Treasurer Cangelieri, District Manager Michalakopoulos, Secretary Manitta, Chief Berg, 2<sup>nd</sup> Assistant Chief Donnelly, 3<sup>rd</sup> Assistant Chief Whelan, and Attorney Ring were present. EMS Supervisor Andracchi and President Kuzloski were absent with prior notice.

Vice Chairman Moreno made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Meyer, unanimously approved to accept the minutes of the workshop meeting of January 22, 2023, and regular BOFC meeting of January 23, 2023.

**Public Comments:**

- No Comments

**Correspondence:**

**Secretary Manitta**

- Brookhaven Town Fire District Council Minutes
- Annual Installation invitations from other Fire Districts

**Secretary Report:**

**Secretary Manitta**

- Nothing to report

**Wading River Fire Department:**

**President Kuzloski**

- Not Present

**Material Requests:****District Manager Michalakopoulos**

- Three material requests for repairs and solutions-
  - **Replacement hose covers (6-3-1, 6-3-11, 6-3-2); total cost \$4,185.**
    - Chairman McQueeney made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Wallace, unanimously approved.
  - **Material request from EMS Supervisor – 9 new slings (3 of each size); request be added to consumable list; total cost \$692.91**
    - Commissioner Meyer made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Wallace, unanimously approved.
  - **Replace bad gas sensor meters – 9 in total**
    - Chairman McQueeney made a motion to purchase 9 gas sensor meters, seconded by Commissioner Meyer, unanimously approved.
- After discussion, motion made to make gas sensor meters consumable items to keep up with ongoing replacement (shelf life of two years).
  - Commissioner Deveny made a motion to make this item a consumable to replace as needed, seconded by Commissioner Meyer, unanimously approved.

**District Manager Report:****District Manager Michalakopoulos**

- New 6-3-8 Currently at Neville with front rim work being conducted
- EMS Billing is progressing – District Manager and Treasurer will be meeting with company to go over billing on Friday, with BOFC permission FAQ sheet will be posted on website
- Defer two items for discussion under the BOFC Facilities Committee

**Treasurers Report:****District Treasurer Cangeleri**

- **Bills total: \$450,415.22 (273k from Brush Truck, reimbursed \$144k through Grant)**
  - Commissioner Meyer made a motion to pay the bills, seconded by Vice Chairman Moreno, unanimously approved.
- **Deposits received:**
  - Town of Brookhaven - \$216,929.49, \$126,692.36, \$65,624.82
  - Town of Riverhead \$31,786.52, \$3,814.38, \$10,171.69
- **Audit – in process**

**Attorneys Report:****Attorney Ring**

- Since last meeting, letter sent in response to subpoena
- Chief document to review
- Reviewed two recent Fire District Audits – late filing of AUDs
- Discussion regarding Bill in Albany to exempt volunteers from jury duty as in the past

## Chief's Report:

## Chief Berg

### ➤ Item Submissions:

1. Discussion about Installation dinner – seating. Can members put in for tables and who they want to sit with?
  - As per the BOFC, Chief's Office will collect member preferences and submit to District Secretary
  - As per the BOFC, all members shall stay in uniform for the Annual Installation Dinner
  - Inspection will be conducted on Saturday mornings by the BOFC as in years past; inspection will be conducted for Annual Installation Dinner
  - Commissioner Meyer thanked Chief Donnelly for looking into dinner gifts; BOFC Committee members will be purchasing the gifts
2. Looking to issue SCBA regulators, just like masks, to interior FF as "personal" items. Will keep 1 extra on each truck in case of on scene failure. Chiefs will have 3 in inventory to swap in case of breakage/failure and then broken pieces will be given to DM for repair. This will allow better accountability and reduce any chances of possible cross contamination if a member does not clean/sanitize after using. Target date is 3/1/23.
3. Fire House room movement - Chiefs need a meeting area. If we don't have our own, then we would like to use district meeting room. Chief would like to be part of conversation about our needs and wants.
  - BOFC approved use by Chiefs Office if not being used
4. Have received complaints and questions about ambulance billing from residents. Was anything put out to residents?

### ➤ Material Requests:

- Would like to purchase new gloves to meet current NFPA standard for interior members ONLY. Current gloves are multiple editions behind (1988) and do not offer the thermal protection as well as other improvements. We will continue to issue the "old" gloves to exterior members until current stock is exhausted. The chiefs are currently reviewing gloves that meet the new standards.
  - Chief will work with District Manager to get pricing for next meeting.
- I would like to know the feasibility of applying for a grant towards the purchase of new brush gear and headsets for new brush truck.
  - Chief will get pricing for the next meeting.

### ➤ Follow-up items: None

### ➤ Information:

- Annual OSHA training is going well with targeted completion date of 3/1
- All members have been given access to new online training portal and classes have been assigned.
- Assistant Chiefs Donnelly and Whelan have completed the Commissioners training as put in place as a requirement of the 2023 chiefs at the January meeting.
- Department member Scott Engelhardt has passed his EMT and is awaiting the arrival of his card from the state.
- The black District unmarked Tahoe red lights and siren are not to be used for alarm response by members or commissioners as it is in violation of town law.

- I have concerns about how the new district Tahoe is being used. I am also inquiring to the justification for this vehicle to have red lights and not marked as district vehicle. Also, why does this vehicle not have a GPS tracking device installed to track speed and movements along with service intervals?
- I'd like discussion on the board's decision before any apparatus is considered surplus and sold. It is my understanding that the board would like to sell 6-3-9 and 6-3-10. I feel it is necessary to keep until replacements have been delivered.
- Rocky Point St. Patrick's Day Parade is March 12<sup>th</sup>. There is currently a signup sheet for attendance.
- Brookhaven Town Chiefs will be hosted at WRFD March 17<sup>th</sup>.
- Member review meeting is scheduled for March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

- Chief Berg reported 25 General Alarms, 83 Rescues for last month
- Chief Berg requested access to WRFD web page
- Discussion regarding voucher for NYSAFC 117 Annual Conference

**1<sup>st</sup> Executive session requested by Chairman McQueeney to discuss personnel and litigation matters.**

- Chairman McQueeney made a motion to move to executive session, seconded by Commissioner Wallace, unanimously approved.

**Adjournment for Executive Session: 1900**

**Reconvene from Executive Session: 1927**

**Old Business:**

- WRFD Association request for freezer replacement in pantry.
  - Commissioner Meyer made a motion to purchase a replacement freezer for the pantry, seconded by Chairman McQueeney, unanimously approved.
- Membership Committee presentation requesting nationwide background checks. As per the BOFC, WRFD will conduct own nationwide background checks.

**Commissioner Reports:**

**Chairman McQueeney**

- Requested to make a motion to move banking to Chase Bank from M&T. Motion was rescinded due to a possible compliance with rules to use a bank within District - moved to old business

- Requested motion to temporarily suspend 6-3-33 position until WRFD get 75 members. Discussion regarding justification for three assistant chiefs given the low current membership numbers.
  - Commissioner Meyer made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Deveny, unanimously approved.
- Requested a police report be filed for missing laptop computer of ex-chief
- Chief Berg asked to keep Expedition for Member Savage to drive to meetings
- Requested Chief submit duty crew driving schedules
- Requested Chief create an EMT policy utilizing District Staff for next meeting

#### **Vice Chairman Moreno**

- Nothing to report

#### **Commissioner Deveny**

- Expressed appreciation for the hiring of paramedics and EMTs
- Requested Keypad installed for entry door
- Thanked District Manager for taking care of exhaust systems for ambulances
- Requested Chief's Office to send specifications on new truck for BOFC to review

#### **Commissioner Wallace**

- Discussion regarding cost savings switching medical provider from IOMR to NDI.
  - Commissioner Meyer made a motion to adopt NDI as WRFD medical provider, seconded by Commissioner Wallace, unanimously approved.
- Hire 3 per diem paramedics (Erik Zalewski, Michael Barnes, Kimberly Porkorny)– at the rate of \$32.00/hr.
  - Commissioner Meyer made a motion to hire per diem paramedics, seconded by Commissioner Deveny, unanimously approved.
- Hire 3 per diem EMTs (Jamol Mardonov, Kali Jung, Agam Singh) – at the rate of \$25.00/hr.
  - Commissioner Deveny made a motion to hire per diem paramedics, seconded by Commissioner Meyer, unanimously approved.

#### **Commissioner Meyer**

- Update to opening STA2 – next meeting to present
- Facilities Committee Report –
  - Recommended a Facilities Study – last one was in 2005; reached out to architect firm for proposal
    - Commissioner Meyer made a motion to accept BBS for a Facilities Study proposal, seconded by Commissioner Deveny, unanimously approved.
  - Met with a firm for lighting retrofit proposal. BOFC Facilities Committee reviewed proposal from Aztec for changing to LED - cost savings projection

- Commissioner Deveny made a motion for a Permissive Referendum – LED Retrofit project not to exceed \$30,000, seconded by Commissioner Wallace, unanimously approved.
- Renovations HQ – Presentation. Discussion regarding concerns and efficient utilization of space. BOFC requested Chiefs Office make a list of concerns to discuss at next workshop meeting.
- Commissioner Meyer made a motion for a Permissive Referendum – HQ Renovations not to exceed \$120,000, seconded by Commissioner Deveny, unanimously approved.
- Discussion regarding tower and space for outdoor equipment

**2<sup>nd</sup> Executive session requested by Chairman McQueeney to discuss personnel and litigation matters.**

- Chairman McQueeney made a motion to move to executive session, seconded by Commissioner Wallace, unanimously approved.

**Adjournment for Executive Session: 2032**

**Reconvene from Executive Session: 2109**

Note: Vice Chairman Moreno needed to leave prior to return from the second Executive Session.

Chairman McQueeney requested Chief follow up on the following items:

- Requested Chief Berg send out Duty Crew night shift to the BOFC.
- Request for drills be sent one month in advance beginning for March 1st
- Chief Berg needs access to SCM – will work with the District Manager
- Discussion regarding annual training online – done by March submitted to District Secretary

Chairman McQueeney also made the following motions and changes:

- Chairman McQueeney made a motion to increase District Treasurer salary to \$30,000 per year, seconded by Deveny, unanimously approved.
- District Treasurer does not need to be at all meetings. Only attend first meeting of the month.
- BOFC will set up a workshop session on March 6<sup>th</sup>

Commissioner Meyer made a motion to change the official BOFC start time to 6:00 pm.

- Commissioner Meyer made a motion to change BOFC meetings to start 6:00 pm from 6:30 pm, seconded by Commissioner Deveny, unanimously approved.

Commissioner Wallace made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Meyer, unanimously approved.

Meeting adjourned at 2156 hours

Respectfully submitted,

Eileen F. Manitta, District Secretary  
Wading River Fire District