

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

Minutes of April 17, 2023, Work Session Meeting

The meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners was called to order by Commissioner Deveny at 1815 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.

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

**Purpose of this Work Session:** Commissioner Meyer explained that the purpose of the Work Session was to have Chip Bancroft from Firehouse Training Plus provide BOFC and Chiefs information on training solutions his company offers.

**Presentation by Chip Bancroft, President of Firehouse Training Plus,** of mandatory training offerings his company can provide that comply with OSHA and PESH agency requirements while building a competent and knowledgeable volunteer membership. Price quotes for a six month and full year of trainings were presented to the BOFC and Chiefs.

**Questions & Comments:**

- Commissioner Meyer asked how different skill levels of membership are addressed during training.
  - Additional time on drills
  - Targeted review and remediation
  - Make sure probationary members are comfortable.
  - Encourages range of FF/EMS etc.
  - Realistic experiences
  - CMEs
- Chief Whelan commented that recent training to build capacity in probationary members was introduced as an incremental approach. Important to build skills while building confidence and encouraging new members.
- Chief Donnelly asked where training would take place. The company relies on the Department to identify sites.
- Videos of sample training on Facebook under Firehouse Training Plus +
- Commissioner Meyer asked about insurance. WRFD's insurance covers their members, the company has insurance to cover the trainers.
- Discussion regarding scheduling.

- Commissioner Deveny asked about pricing for May-December and then the following year.
- Chiefs requested a 10-minute break to discuss proposal at 1920 hours – reconvened at 1930 hours.

**Discussion regarding approving Firehouse Training Plus:**

- Folders and organization for training is a positive.
- Protection for PESH requirements
- Shared Folder set up by Chiefs and District to collect items.
- Chief Donnelly presented work done so far on WRFD PESH folder.
- Commissioner Meyer - important to increase competency, confidence, and engagement.
- Chief Whelan – presentation to the department as an additional enhancement of the current training.
- Discussion regarding current training program and how to integrate this new program.
- Chief Berg – positive that certified set of instructors to enhance program – safer way to train; paper trail; new and perhaps more engaging for members.
- Cost seems very reasonable.

**Discussion regarding trucks and equipment:**

- Chief Berg discussed plans for new truck, training and equipment needed.
- Discussion regarding surplus of old 6-3-8

**Executive Session #1 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: 1956**

**Reconvene from Executive Session: 2005**

## **Commissioner Reports:**

### **Chairman McQueeney**

- District Manager requested permission for signatures for tower.
  - Chairman McQueeney made a motion to sign the tower forms, seconded by Commissioner Deveny, unanimously approved.

### **Vice Chairman Moreno**

- Not present

### **Commissioner Deveny**

- Motor Vehicle Accident – issue with first responder car. Identified as East Shoreham – Rocky Point was dispatched but it was really WRFD. Nine minutes before WRFD were activated. Need to address with FRES Commission. Set up a meeting with Patrick Beckley, Commissioner of FRES to see if we can fix it. Need to address it. Rocky Point may want to join the meeting. Maybe meet with Brookhaven Districts and Chiefs Associations.
- The District Manager will set up a meeting with the FRES Commissioner. Tentatively to set for after FDIC
- Asked about calling Town to fix the road in front of STA2 driveway. Commissioner Wallace will make a call to the town.

### **Commissioner Wallace**

- Commissioner Wallace made a motion to contract Firehouse Training Plus for May – Dec \$7,700, seconded by Commissioner Meyer, unanimously approved.
- Discussion regarding Spring Clean Up at STA2
  - Commissioner Wallace made a motion for Spring Clean Up and Five-Step Program for both houses with Rosetti Landscaping, seconded by Commissioner Deveny, unanimously approve.

### **Commissioner Meyer**

- Discussion regarding group text app to communicate with BOFC/Chiefs.
- Discussion regarding Spring Cleaning to assess surplus gear and needs.
- Discussion clean-up for STA2 and preparation for lawn maintenance.
- Suggested that the Chiefs office utilize Firehouse Training Plus to prepare for new truck.
- Discussion regarding long-term plans for truck and boat replacement.
- Discussion regarding exploring grant money for replacements. Commissioner Meyer volunteered to meet with local State legislator. Possible use of DANSY money.

## **FOR NEXT TIME:**

Chief Whelan – Uniforms – will be submitting – 7 sets of gear. Will draft material requests. Commissioner Deveny made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Wallace, unanimously approved.

**Executive Session #2 requested by Chief Donnelly to discuss personnel matters.**

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

**Adjournment for Executive Session: 2015**

**Reconvene from Executive Session: 2057**

Chairman McQueeney made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Deveny, unanimously approved.

Meeting adjourned at **2058** hours.

Respectfully submitted,

Eileen F. Manitta, District Secretary  
Wading River Fire District