

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

Minutes of April 24, 2023 Meeting

The meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners was called to order by Commissioner Deveny at **1814** (meeting start delayed for full quorum) 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. Condolences were also expressed to District Manager Michalakopoulos and his family for the passing of his father.

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

Vice Chairman Moreno made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Meyer, unanimously approved to accept the minutes of the April 10, 2023, BOFC meeting and Work Session Meeting of April 17, 2023.

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: 1814

Reconvene from Executive Session: 1839

Old Business: Material requests for uniforms

Public Comments:

- No Comments

Correspondence:

Secretary Manitta

- Reminder Meetings:
 - Riverhead Town Fire District Council – April 26th at Manorville FD
 - Brookhaven Town Fire District Officers Association – April 27th at Ridge FD

Secretary Report:

Secretary Manitta

- Nothing to report

Wading River Fire Department:

President Kuzloski

- Not present

Material Requests:**District Manager Michalakopoulos**

- 06 – FF Equip – FF Gear – 7 Sets in the amount of \$4,810.00
- 07 – Uniforms & Apparel – Class A Uniforms in the amount of \$3,410.60
- 08 – FF Equip – EMS Boots in the amount of \$115.00
- 09 – Uniforms & Apparel – Class A Uniforms in the amount of \$800.00
- 10 – Uniforms & Apparel – Class A Shoes in the amount of \$75.00
- 11 – FF Equip – EMS Boots in the amount of \$115.00
 - After discussion, Commissioner Moreno approved material requests numbers 6-11, seconded by Commissioner Meyer, unanimously approved.

District Manager Report:**District Manager Michalakopoulos**

- Received the following checks: None
- 6-3-2 – Repairs to power steering completed by district mechanic.
- New 6-3-8 – Submitted tool mounting and recommended communication system quote. Vehicle scheduled to go to vendor on May 4th to begin on warranty items. Time for completion is approx. 3 weeks.
 - Commissioner Wallace made a motion, to send truck out on May 4th for all mounting of tools (\$5,639.85) and headsets put on hold until next meeting, seconded by Commissioner Meyer, unanimously approved.
- 6-3-32 – Vehicle scheduled for minor repairs while chief is away at FDIC conference by district mechanic.
- 6-3-80 – Received police report from incident on 4-15-23, vehicle back in service, wheel alignment in addition to 3 rims & tires completed. All other items are cosmetic related and will be addressed at a later.
- 6-3-Spare
- Communication Tower Project – Sandel Crane test & simulation scheduled for 4/25. Will be onsite for approximately 4 hrs. This is required for the town application process.
- EMS Recovery Billing Implementation – Weekly onboarding meeting with EMS supervisor and QMC in progress, no update on Medicaid application submission but was told this may take a few weeks.
- Additional FT Paramedic paperwork (SC 500 & Eligible Certification List) submitted to Civil Service for processing. Once approved, official list will be sent and canvass letters will be sent to eligible candidates will be sent out.
- HQ Structural Evaluation – No update currently, expecting report from BBS Architects Engineers & J.C. Broberick in the next few days.
- Diligent – In progress, working with district secretary on setup & training.
- Building LED lighting project – Completed, five (5) additional fixtures needed for renovation project and will be complete after PESG rebate program is completed. All paperwork has been submitted and approved.
- HQ Building Renovation Project – In progress, Johnson Controls completed additions to building system required for building renovations, cost part of overall cost of project.

- HQ / Station 2 Monitoring System – Findings from annual certification testing as follows: Omntec proteus board needed to be replaced along with the transition sump at Station 2. Repair costs will be \$3,202.
 - Commissioner Wallace made a motion to approve repairs, seconded by Commissioner Deveny, unanimously approved.
- Fire Alarm Systems – Station 2 trouble issues have been resolved, issues with phone connections and one (1) smoke detector needed to be replaced. Repair costs for this repair was \$3,659.48. The HQ trouble issue has been resolved, cost for repair included in renovation project costs.
 - Commissioner Wallace made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Deveny, unanimously approved.

BOFC Comment: Discussion regarding Commissioner Meyer’s motion to allow District Manager to enter into agreements for operational facility repairs and/or maintenance of buildings and vehicles up to a maximum cost of \$5000 without waiting for prior BOFC approval. The District Manager would then report to Facilities Committee Commissioners and to the entire BOFC at next meeting.

- After discussion, Commissioner Meyer made a motion to allow the District Manager to enter in agreement for R/M for vehicles/building up to \$5000 without BOFC prior approval, seconded by Commissioner Wallace, all in favor except Chairman McQueeney who was opposed, motion passed 4-1.

Attorneys Report:

Attorney Ring

- Not present

Chief’s Report:

Chief Berg

➤ **Item Submissions:**

- Hardy Harrell (Fire/EMS) and Evan Albinski (EMS Only) folders submitted for membership.
 - Commissioner Wallace made a motion to approve physicals, seconded by Commissioner Meyer, unanimously approved.
- Scheduled Training: *All trainings are subject to change by the chief*
- May 4th Extrication tool evaluation
- May 7th Extrication tool evaluation
- May 10th NYS OFPC - Firefighter Contamination Reduction and Cancer Prevention @ Mastic FD
- May 11th NYS OFPC - Firefighter Contamination Reduction and Cancer Prevention @ North Patchogue FD (morning)
- May 11th NYS OFPC - Firefighter Contamination Reduction and Cancer Prevention @ Dix Hills FD (afternoon)
- May 25th Vehicle Extrication @ Suffolk County Fire Academy

➤ **Material Requests:**

- EMT class at Port Jefferson EMS for Probationary EMS Member Ambar Silva at the cost of \$175 to be paid upon registration online.
 - After discussion regarding response percentage rate, Commissioner Meyer made a motion to approve with a stipulation the Chief have a discussion regarding attendance at alarms, seconded by Commissioner Wallace, approved by all except Chairman McQueeney and Vice Chairman Moreno who were opposed, motion passed 3-2.
- Auto Vent shade in-Channel rain guards for 2021-2023 Chevy Tahoe (6-3-30 vehicle) at a cost of \$60
 - Chairman McQueeney made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Deveny, unanimously approved.
- Bolt Cutters for 6-3-8 at the cost of \$203.83
 - Chairman McQueeney made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Deveny, unanimously approved.

➤ **Follow-up items:**

- Looking for an answer on Houseman Michael Argenti and his hours per my request at the last regular board meeting. Is the board willing to switch his hours back, has he been spoken with? Executive session to discuss privately as per Commissioner Meyer

➤ **Information:**

- Riverhead Fire Department and Riverhead Volunteer Ambulance Corps have been taking alarms at Tractor Supply Company, Middle Country Rd. Calverton, NY 11933. This is a business that is in the Wading River Fire District. Both agencies have not contacted Wading River Fire District, or Department that the alarms have been given to the wrong agencies. The problem seems to be stemming from Riverhead Police Department dispatchers that have been dispatching the wrong agencies.
 - Chairman McQueeney requested that the Chief reach out to Riverhead FD and PD.
- 6-3-30 Tahoe needs to go to GM dealership for a computer programming recall. I actually have to run out to Buzz Chew at some point within the next 2 weeks so I could schedule and take it there, otherwise I could turn it in to the district and take a loaner and the district can take it. It will be coming up as due for an oil change soon. The dealer could handle the service if the board/ DM would like while I wait for it. This is per the mechanic at Commander Fleet.
- Chief Whelan shared a recent legal case involving the driver of an engine who went through a red light. The Appeals Court decision found fire district will not be liable for their volunteer fire districts. Districts no longer has vicarious liabilities/negligence due to their status of special privileges.

Executive Session #2 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: 2025

Treasurers Report:

District Manager Michalakopoulos

➤ **Bills total: \$50,119.72**

- Commissioner Meyer made a motion to pay the bills, seconded by Commissioner Deveny, unanimously approved.

Commissioner Reports:

Chairman McQueeney

- Requesting 6-3-80 automobile accident report from staff and installing a forward-facing camera. District Manager will get BOFC a price.
- Thanked Chief Donnelly and Jade Andracchi for setting up Zoom meeting with Department of Social Services. Commissioner Meyer also complemented both for doing a fantastic job. Meeting was very productive.
- Sick calls – requested BOFC is emailed when someone calls in sick. EMS Supervisor Andracchi should let BOFC know.
- Payroll – District Manager will email out.
- Requested update on freezer upstairs
- Boat back in a week or less and will let you know what props to buy

Vice Chairman Moreno

- No report

Commissioner Deveny

- Requested District Manager contact Cathy DeLuca (AFDSNY) to submit recently deceased members' names to list/newsletter.

Commissioner Wallace

- No report

Commissioner Meyer

- Commissioner Meyer made a motion for Commissioner Wallace, Chief Donnelly, Commissioner Wallace and himself to be reimbursed as per the previously BOFC adopted GSA per diem rate for the FDIC Conference, seconded by Deveny, unanimously approved.
- Requested update on All American sign off for Commissioner's sweatshirts.
- Recent inquiries and phone calls regarding medical billing. Requested that the information be put on new website and added to phone answering system. District Manager will follow up with phone system to connect to QMC for any questions. BOFC would like an information letter to go out to the residents along with EMS Surveys.
- Discussion regarding sending a letter out to neighbors (HQ) to notify the WRFD interest in possible purchase of property should they plan on selling.
- Bodywork – equipment inspections and identified repairs needed (rust on 6-3-11). District Manager will obtain quotes.
- Requested District Manager send a memo to District Treasurer Cangeleri requesting information on budget capacity to hire another full-time medic to be presented to BOFC for next meeting.
- Requested District Manager to send memorandum to EMS Supervisor, Jade Andracchi, to have her report to BOFC at next meeting on pro/cons of possibly moving hours of for EMTs/Drivers. Breakdown of busiest times.
- Work Session in June – topic 1, 3, 5-year plans. Asked Chief to start working on their end. Most likely a Sunday morning. Will walk around to see what can be excessed and then sit with Chiefs and assistants.

For Next Meeting:

- Treasurer Cangeleri update – where money for another full-time paramedic
- EMS Supervisor Andracchi – prepared to speak on pro/cons moving times around and alternatives covering weekend shifts
- Chief Berg put together a proposal for new badges and recycling member numbers.

Commissioner Wallace made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Vice Chairman Moreno, unanimously approved.

Meeting adjourned at 2049 hours

Respectfully submitted,

Eileen F. Manitta, District Secretary
Wading River Fire District