

POUND RIDGE FIRE DISTRICT
MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 12, 2023 REGULAR MEETING

**NB – All votes are assumed to be unanimous unless otherwise noted.*

PRESENT: Chairman Peter Gallagher, Vice Chairman Joe Roemer, Commissioner Edward Trail, Commissioner Frank Tavalacci, Chief Vincent Zafonte, Caretaker Sam Dodge

ALSO PRESENT: Secretary/Treasurer Justin Friedland, Lt. Nick Rienzi, Chief Vincent Duffield, Chief Garrett Biagerelli

ABSENT: Commissioner David Ekholm

CALL TO ORDER Chairman Gallagher called the regular meeting of the Pound Ridge Fire District to order at 7:08 P.M.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Commissioner Roemer's motion to accept the August minutes was seconded by Commissioner Tavalacci and was unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF BILLS

Commissioner Trail's motion to approve payment of the bills as submitted was seconded by Commissioner Roemer and was unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF TREASURER'S REPORT:

Commissioner Trail's motion to approve the Treasurer's Report was seconded by Commissioner Roemer and was unanimously approved.

CHIEF'S REPORT:

28 calls last month. See attached Incident Summary.

Dropping Brian Krulikowski from rolls for non-participation.

Chief expresses concern about response times for calls. Chairman Gallagher asks for a tracking spreadsheet to quantify incidents, times and responses, plus number of members who respond to each call.

New Canaan asking if we can set up an automatic mutual response where PRFD automatically dispatches for incidents on our side of New Canaan (about 18 per year) and they will be automatic response to us when we need an engine to standby if we catch a fire or other personnel intensive incident. Try it for a year.

MEMBERSHIP

James Michael Kelley and Nestor Melendez were approved by the membership.

Motion to approve by Commissioner Roemer, seconded by Commissioner Tavalacci.

CHIEF'S PURCHASES

Chief wants to get the flashover trailer to come for training on October 28th. Cost of \$5,500. To come out of Chief's Budget.

Question of food for training sessions. District will consider bills.

Need new handle for cable machine in weight room. \$20.

Purchase Rabbit Tool for forcible entry at cost of \$2,160 for Engine 111. To come out of Chief's budget.

District owes Nick Rienzi for tires for his loader that was used at the Parkview Road fire cleanup. \$970.

Motion made to approve the four purchases by Commissioner Roemer, seconded by Commissioner Tavalacci.

LONG TERM PLANNING UPDATE:

We have been told we need Ground Penetrating Radar for the new addition work to find potential problems, wires, pipes etc.

Chris Harbaugh from Arris suggests the company Ground Penetrating Radar, Inc. at \$1,025 per day. Will be needed for 2 days. Caretaker Dodge makes motion to put aside \$3,000 for the total job.

Motion made by Commissioner Tavalacci and seconded by Commissioner Trail.

Waiting to hear from surveyor. Stanley Johnson. We need to survey the ramp in front of the building with better elevations and more precise numbers.

Motion made by Commissioner Trail to allot maximum of \$5,000 for surveying, seconded by Commissioner Roemer.

WATER SUPPLY: Need to repair the hydrant at the Market. Chief plans to add Al Clark to the Water Group for his construction expertise.

Chairman Gallagher suggests calling Attorney Pinsky to push the School regarding the dry hydrant in front, and nail down obligation for work and payment, District or the school. There are some draconian options.

INSURANCE: NR

COMPUTER: NR

TOWN & PLANNING BOARD MEETINGS: NR

MEDICAL: Flu shots: Chief Zafonte suggests striking a deal with the Pound Ridge Pharmacy to give flu and COVID shots to our members and spouses on a walk-in basis. To be investigated and when we get prices, it will be voted on at October meeting.

ADDITIONAL BUSINESS:

Motion to spend up to \$2,000 for fire prevention. Made by Commissioner Trail, Seconded by Commissioner Roemer. Money is already in budget.

Re: the funeral for Ex-Chief and Board Chairman Robert Meyer. There will be a viewing at Clarks in Katonah from 5-9pm on Friday the 14th, and services on Saturday, the 15th starting at 11A at St. Mary's in Katonah. Family has asked for District/Department to transport the body from Katonah to pass the Meyer home, then pass in review by the FD before the service.

Budget for 2024 was discussed and a proposed budget was created. See attached spreadsheet.

There being no additional business to come before the Board, Commissioner Trail's motion to adjourn the meeting was seconded by Commissioner Tavalacci and unanimously agreed to by all the attending Commissioners. Accordingly, the meeting adjourned at 9:25 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Justin Friedland Secretary/Treasurer

POUND RIDGE FIRE DISTRICT - 2024 Proposed Budget

				NET CHANGE
		2023	2024 Proposed	Increase/(Decrease)
INCOME				
Westchester County Contract		\$8,333	\$8,333	
Property Tax Revenues (Note 2)		\$842,187	\$848,984	
TOTAL: INCOME		\$ 850,520	\$857,317	\$ 6,797
PERSONNEL				
Dental Insurance		\$2,000	\$0	\$ (2,000)
Health Insurance		\$25,000	\$0	\$ (25,000)
Wages		\$126,714	\$131,305	\$ 4,591
Retirement Benefits		\$14,000	\$17,000	\$ 3,000
Payroll Taxes		\$10,232	\$11,232	\$ 1,000
TOTAL: PERSONNEL		\$ 177,946	\$ 159,537	\$ (18,409)
OPERATING EXPENSES				
Apparatus Maintnace & Inspections		\$75,000	\$100,000	\$ 25,000
Audit		\$11,000	\$10,000	\$ (1,000)
Building Maintenance		\$44,000	\$44,000	\$ -
Computer Purch/Maint.		\$3,000	\$3,000	\$ -
Conventions		\$3,500	\$3,000	\$ (500)
Drills & Mutual Aid		\$5,000	\$6,000	\$ 1,000
Dues & Subscriptions		\$2,500	\$3,000	\$ 500
Election Expenses		\$200	\$200	\$ -
Electric		\$12,000	\$13,000	\$ 1,000
EMS		\$1,500	\$1,500	\$ -
Equipment Maintenance + Replacement		\$76,000	\$100,000	\$ 24,000
Fire Prevention		\$2,000	\$2,000	\$ -
Gasoline & Oil		\$14,000	\$15,000	\$ 1,000
Heating		\$15,000	\$16,000	\$ 1,000
Hose Testing & Replacement		\$8,000	\$8,000	\$ -
Inspections		0	\$10,000	\$ 10,000
Insurance		\$100,000	\$100,000	\$ -
Legal Notices		\$400	\$500	\$ 100
Medical Examinations		\$15,000	\$16,000	\$ 1,000
Mileage		\$2,500	\$2,500	\$ -
Miscellaneous		\$5,274	\$2,000	\$ (3,274)
Postage		\$500	\$500	\$ -
Professional Services		\$12,000	\$9,000	\$ (3,000)
Radio Communications & Maintenance		\$10,900	\$10,900	\$ -
Stationery & Supplies		\$500	\$750	\$ 250
Tax Refunds		\$2,000	\$2,000	\$ -
Telephone		\$7,300	\$9,000	\$ 1,700
Training Occupational		\$5,000	\$5,000	\$ -
Training Physical		\$3,500	\$4,000	\$ 500
Ward Pound Ridge Reservation		\$-		
TOTAL: OPERATING EXPENSES		\$ 437,574	\$ 496,850	\$ 59,276
EQUIPMENT/MAINTENANCE				

Equipment Purchases		\$20,000	\$22,500	\$ 2,500
TOTAL: EQUIPMENT		\$20,000	\$22,500	
RESERVE ACCOUNTS				
Equipment Reserve		\$175,000	\$187,500	\$ 12,500
Land Improvement/Acquisition/Mut. Aid		\$40,000		\$ (40,000)
Hydrant/Water Tank Installation & Maintenance				
TOTAL: RESERVES		\$215,000	\$187,500	\$ (27,500)
Total New budget (Note 4) %Tax Increase (Note 5)			\$ 874,720	\$ 0.0199
TOTAL BUDGET:		\$ 850,520	\$857,317	\$ 22,664

(Note 3)

Note: 1. Since neither employee is taking health or dental insurance, that \$27,000 can be redistributed to other budget lines.

2. Property tax income based on new valuations for 2023. \$385,461,268

3. Total Budget based on new valuations x old rate of 2.202515

4. Total New budget based on new valuations x new rate of 2.2465653

5. %tax increase is below tax cap of .02 (2%).