

POUND RIDGE FIRE DISTRICT
MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 17, 2023 REGULAR MEETING

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

PRESENT: Chairman Peter Gallagher, Vice Chairman Joe Roemer, Commissioner Frank Tavalacci, Commissioner David Ekholm, Chief Vincent Zafonte,

ALSO PRESENT: Secretary/Treasurer Justin Friedland,

ABSENT: Commissioner Edward Trail, Caretaker Sam Dodge

CALL TO ORDER Chairman Gallagher called the regular meeting of the Pound Ridge Fire District to order at 7:02 P.M.

BUDGET HEARING Proposed budget submitted to town and attached. No questions or comments.

Commissioner Tavalacci's motion to adopt the 2024 budget was seconded by Commissioner Roemer.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

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

APPROVAL OF BILLS

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

APPROVAL OF TREASURER'S REPORT:

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

CHIEF'S REPORT: 28 calls in September. (list attached)

MEMBERSHIP two new members: Arman Weismann, Luis Pazos.

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

CHIEF'S PURCHASES

Chief says that with all the new members, we have a need for more gear, and will have to plan for that. Flash fire training is at the end of the month and that will cost \$5,500 (approved in September). Need to get a new siren for the roof that will respond to calls from 60 control. Federal Informer is the manufacturer and cost is \$3,075

Motion made to approve the two purchases by Commissioner Roemer, seconded by Commissioner Ekholm.

LONG TERM PLANNING UPDATE:

Need to think about CPR and Narcan training going forward. Melissa Trail can do both at a cost of \$62/head.

We will have to update the trunking radios (officer's trunking portables) to the new county frequencies at a cost of \$20,801.25. Will require a permissive referendum to take money from Equipment Reserve Fund, and we will ask permission to take \$22k to cover any surprises.

Motion made by Commissioner Ekholm and seconded by Commissioner Roemer to publish the referendum and do the work as follows:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Board of Fire Commissioners of the Pound Ridge Fire District on October 17, 2023, adopted a resolution for the purpose of expending monies from the Equipment Reserve Fund of said Fire District not to exceed a total of \$22,000.00 to finance the reprogramming and updating of all portable radios to Westchester County specifications and channels, and said resolution was adopted subject to a permissive referendum, and that said resolution shall not be effective until thirty (30) days after its adoption or until a permissive referendum is held provided a Petition is filed by resident taxpayers of the Fire District as provided by Section 6-g of the General Municipal Law and the resolution approved by the affirmative vote of a majority of the Electors of such Fire District affected by such resolution.

Building plans are moving along, still working on the NYSEG piece of the puzzle.

Chairman Gallagher then distributed and explained a detailed spreadsheet of regular, yearly expenses, and special expenses such as replacement apparatus, and other hardware that have a scheduled obsolescence that must be accounted for. A long discussion followed, with suggestions for changes. The document will be revised and re-presented next month.

WATER SUPPLY: There are 6 broken or unusable hydrants that require significant maintenance. Suggestion made to hire a outside engineer or General Contractor to take charge of hydrant maintenance and co-ordinate work that needs to be done. This will be investigated.

INSURANCE: Commissioner Roemer raises the question of the possibility of the District going to self-insurance, instead of paying \$1,900 a month for life insurance for the members, and maybe using the 2% money from the State to fund it. Will be investigated with Attorney Pinsky.

COMPUTER: NR

TOWN & PLANNING BOARD MEETINGS: What impact would a cannabis store on Westchester Avenue have on the district?

Need to ask Mark Miller to remove his trucks and equipment from the back of the firehouse by November 15th.

MEDICAL: Still waiting to find out if Pharmacy can handle our flu and COVID shots. Discussion about proposed NYS insurance plan, and whether we should contract with a doctor to handle members and families for exams and maybe treatment. Chairman Gallagher wants to find out what the town does and would it make sense for us to join them.

ADDITIONAL BUSINESS: bills for meals for drills for the year-to-date have been totaled. \$3,974.

Motion made by Commissioner Roemer and seconded by Commissioner Ekholm to reimburse the department for past bills and for drill food going forward.

Need to shred old files.

Motion made by Commissioner Ekholm to apportion \$750 for shredding, seconded by Commissioner Roemer.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Commissioner Ekholm's motion to adjourn the meeting was seconded by Commissioner Roemer and unanimously agreed to by all the attending Commissioners. Accordingly, the meeting adjourned at 9:05 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

<u>EQUIPMENT/MAINTENANCE</u>				
Equipment Purchases		\$20,000	\$22,500	\$ 2,500
TOTAL: EQUIPMENT		\$20,000	\$22,500	
<u>RESERVE ACCOUNTS</u>				
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%).