

POUND RIDGE FIRE DISTRICT  
MINUTES OF THE March 12, 2024 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, Commissioner Edward Trail, Caretaker Sam Dodge, Chief Vincent Zafonte, Chief Vincent Duffield, Jr., Chief Garrett Biagerelli, Chief Nick Rienzi

**ALSO PRESENT:** Secretary/Treasurer Justin Friedland,

**CALL TO ORDER** Chairman Gallagher called the regular meeting of the Pound Ridge Fire District to order at 7:00 P.M.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

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

**APPROVAL OF BILLS**

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

**CHIEF'S REPORT:** 35 calls in February. (list attached)

**MEMBERSHIP** New member Jake Lyons.

**CHIEF'S PURCHASES** Chief request a computer monitor for the officer's room @\$200, new id plates for cars @\$136.20, and a new battery for the portable jump pack at \$300.

**Motion by Commissioner Roemer to make these purchases. Seconded by Commissioner Ekholm.**

Chief Duffield reports that GK says 113 is okay for the moment but there is a rusting problem that will get worse. New trucks are 3 years out in building for custom vehicles. Pierce is making "off-the-rack" trucks that have been purchased by a number of neighboring departments that are a)more readily available and b)slightly less expensive. Decision is made to form a truck committee now for 113's replacement to include Commissioner Trail and Vin Jr.

**LONG TERM PLANNING UPDATE:** On the subject of trucks, Asst. Chief Rienzi reported on his work on pricing a replacement for 2403 (2018 Suburban.) Prices are \$122,000 for vehicle and an additional \$18,000 for the light package for a total of \$140,000. He has been told by Ray? that we might get between \$40,000- \$50,000 for the Suburban on the open resale market. Chairman Gallagher points out that the Suburban is now in pristine shape and does not need to be replaced mechanically. Chief Zafonte claims that the truck does not fit current and future needs. Says adding this new truck would allow him to keep all three chief's trucks on the road for 15-20 years. Asst. Chief Rienzi points out that costs have increased and will continue to increase. Lighting package is now \$38,000. **(Clarification email from Asst. Chief Rienzi breaks down costs thusly: Truck-\$65,000; Utility Body-\$19,000; Lighting/Equipment-\$38,000 for a total of \$122,000- Does not include cost for new, dual band radio which will be \$3-\$4,000.)**

**Commissioner Ekholm makes a resolution for a permissive referendum to pay for a new truck out of the Equipment Reserve account at a total cost of \$140,000. Seconded by Commissioner Roemer.**

Voting YES – Commissioner Romer, Commissioner Tavalacci, Commissioner Ekholm

Voting NO- Commissioner Trail, and Chairman Gallagher. Motion passes 3-2.

*Upon motion by Commissioner Ekholm, seconded by Commissioner Roemer, the Board adopted the following resolution by a vote of three to two:*

**WHEREAS, the Board of Fire Commissioners of the Pound Ridge Fire District find it necessary to trade-in the 2018 Chevy Suburban chief's car and to expend monies from the Equipment Reserve Fund to replace it with a 2022 Chevy Silverado 3500 Crew Cab with Utility Body equipped with the necessary lights, radios, data terminal and warning systems, subject to permissive referendum as required by Section 6-g of the General Municipal Law now therefore be it**

**RESOLVED that monies not to exceed \$140,000 shall be expended from the Equipment Reserve Fund to finance the purchase of a 2022 Chevy Silverado 3500 Crew Cab with Utility Body equipped with the necessary lights, radios, data terminal and warning systems, and it is further**

**RESOLVED that the Fire District Secretary shall publish a notice which sets forth the date of such resolution and an abstract of such resolution concisely stating the purposes and effect thereof, and further stating that such resolution was adopted subject to a permissive referendum, and such notice shall be substantially as follows:**

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Board of Fire Commissioners of the Pound Ridge Fire District on March 12, 2024, adopted a resolution for the purpose of expending monies from the Equipment Reserve Fund of said Fire District not to exceed \$140,000 to finance the purchase of a 2024 Chevy Silverado 3500 Crew Cab with Utility Body equipped with the necessary lights, radios, data terminal and warning systems. Said resolution was adopted pursuant to a permissive referendum, and 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.

Also on the subject of Long Term Planning, since the new addition is taking so many resources, Chairman Gallagher asked that the LTP committee be divided into two parts, with the second part thinking further down the road. His suggestion for members are Nick Chen, Commissioner Roemer, Chief Biagerelli and Robert Sacks.

As to the addition, Commissioner Tavalacci has had conversations with George Gattuso, who is a project manager doing PLA projects. He is willing to do a feasibility study for our project that could be ready middle of April at a cost of \$13,960. We would then have to have Walt make some changes in the package as well as consulting our attorney.

**Commissioner Tavalacci makes a motion to hire Mr. Gattuso of Hill International at a cost of \$13,960 to do the study. Seconded by Commissioner Ekholm. Unanimous consent**

In other actions, we will have to install temporary electric service in front of the building for the project. Comes in two parts: digging and moving parts and then the Electrical connections. Commissioner Tavalacci researched and got three prices on both aspects- the lowest bids came from Elmir Pasalic for the digging (\$5,400), and John Doyle for the Electric work (\$6,500.) We will do no work until the construction bids come back which may be sometime in April.

Meanwhile, our estimated costs have evolved and the 7.7 million number is going to be dependent on the actual bid package results.

WATER SUPPLY: 2 bad hydrants at the market and a dead hydrant on Winterbottom Lane. Chief Zafonte has met with Matt from NE Aquatic services about analyzing our hydrants and giving us a plan to repair or replace. He will return in a month or two

INSURANCE: NR.

COMPUTER: Had to replace Quickbooks to 2024 version so it would work with our payroll system. Found a discounted version for \$400 instead of \$700.

TOWN & PLANNING BOARD MEETINGS: Already covered

MEDICAL: Physicals scheduled for end of May and beginning of June.

ADDITIONAL BUSINESS: Moving meeting for next month to **April 16<sup>th</sup>**.

**Motion made by Commissioner Ekholm to purchase the Fire Service Laws for 2024 @ cost of \$65, seconded by Commissioner Roemer.**

Board now thinking about doing a non-traditional inspection, perhaps held at the Reservation or Le Chateau. Still being researched as to date and place.

FEMA grant still in limbo due to their rules and procedures. Still working on it.

Knox box being publicized to the town in a mailing by Steve Anuzkiewitz. We will send info to supervisor for inclusion in his newsletter.

Emily will come in to catch members up on CPR.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Commissioner Ekholm's motion to adjourn the meeting was seconded by Commissioner Tavalascci and unanimously agreed to by all the attending Commissioners. Accordingly, the meeting adjourned at 8:40 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,  
Justin Friedland Secretary/Treasurer