

POUND RIDGE FIRE DISTRICT  
MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 15, 2024 REGULAR MEETING

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

PRESENT: : Chairman Peter Gallagher; Vice Chairman Joseph Roemer, Commissioner David Ekholm, Commissioner Edward Trail, Caretaker Sam Dodge, Chief Vincent Zafonte.

ALSO PRESENT: Secretary/Treasurer Justin Friedland,

ABSENT: Commissioner Frank Tavalacci

SPECIAL GUESTS – Joined by Supervisor Kevin Hansan, Councilperson Ali Boak, and Water Commission member Max Mossolino for brief presentation regarding the proposed water district.

CALL TO ORDER Chairman Gallagher called the regular meeting of the Pound Ridge Fire District to order at 7:28 P.M.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

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

APPROVAL OF BILLS

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

APPROVAL OF TREASURER'S REPORT:

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

CHIEF'S REPORT: 33 calls in September. (list attached)

MEMBERSHIP New member Dan Wilkenloh accepted by department on 10/14/24.

CHIEF'S PURCHASES Chief asks for the following:

Money to move 9/11 monument \$530 to be taken from L&I reserve

Phone for Chief Reinzi @ approx. \$650 + monthly plan

Restock of medical supplies (expired) in trucks and chief's trucks @ \$4,800.

Chief also asks that \$5,000 be encumbered from his 2024 budget line for 2-day ATV, Wildland Firefighting and Polaris training in 2025.

**Motion to approve the above items made by Commissioner Trail, seconded by Commissioner Ekholm.**

LONG TERM PLANNING UPDATE: Chief Zafonte asks that the board consider purchasing an Aluminum open, flat trailer for various moving projects, NTE \$15,000

Chief asks that a process be started to standardize tools across all trucks to one maker, rather than the 3 or 4 that currently exist. Would simplify operation and battery replacement. Cost estimated at \$7,000 - \$10,000.

Chief also asks that all hydraulic tools on 113 be replaced by Edraulic tools, and that same happen on Chief's trucks. Possible cost in the neighborhood of \$40,000.

All three ideas to be investigated and a document outlining all verified costs to be prepared.

EXPANDED LONG TERM PLANNING AND ADDITION – Commissioner Ekholm reports that the tree work is expected to begin in the week of 10/21. Construction trailer and fence should also appear week of the 21<sup>st</sup>. Commissioner Ekholm requests that the members room be cleared out ASAP. Project will begin with road work and then the Foundation.

WATER SUPPLY: Hydrant on Winterbottom is done. Pressure is reported to be low, but the water level was also low at the time. Company and department to retest hydrant.  
Hydrants at the market are next.  
There has been no word back from the Elementary School about the hydrant there.

INSURANCE: NR

COMPUTER: NR

TOWN & PLANNING BOARD MEETINGS: NR. Vote on water district coming October 24<sup>th</sup>, in which the district gets one vote.

MEDICAL: Need to set up flu shots. Plan is to take \$2,100 from Miscellaneous budget line, since the Medical line is currently in the red.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: In at 8:10p – out at 8:22p

ADDITIONAL BUSINESS: Caretaker Dodge requests \$2,208 from Equipment Maintenance and Replacement budget line for 4 pagers, and \$3,540 from the Building Maintenance line to fix the lights in the tanker bay.

**Motion made by Commissioner Ekholm to fund the above purchases, seconded by Commissioner Roemer.**

PUBLIC COMMENT: NR

**There being no further regular business to come before the Board, Commissioner Roemer's motion to adjourn the regular meeting was seconded by Commissioner Ekholm. Regular meeting adjourned at 8:25 P.M.**

## **BUDGET MEETING**

**The mandatory budget meeting was called to order at 8:30p**

The proposed budget was reviewed and amended (amended budget attached). Net result is a 52.82% increase over 2024, due to bond payments and debt service of \$422,500 now added per year, already approved by voters.

**Motion to exceed the 2% tax cap made by Commissioner Trail, seconded by Commissioner Ekholm.**

**FIRE DISTRICT**

**RESOLUTION NO. 1 : OVERRIDE REAL PROPERTY TAX CAP FOR THE 2025 BUDGET**

WHEREAS, the Board of Fire Commissioners of the Pound Ridge Fire District must adopt a proposed budget for 2025 and estimate of fund balances in preparation for the annual fire district budget hearing and did so in preparation for the budget hearing, and

WHEREAS, the Board of Fire Commissioners of the Fire District held the annual fire district budget hearing on notice to the public on October 15, 2024, and

WHEREAS, the Board has considered the proposed budget and comments received on the proposed budget on October 15, 2024 at said budget hearing, and

WHEREAS, the Board has determined that the financial needs of the fire district

and fire department for fiscal year 2025 cannot be supported by a budget that would comply with the real property tax cap established pursuant to Section 3-c of the General Municipal Law as the proposed budget for 2025 calls for a real property tax levy that will exceed the real property tax cap permitting only a 2.00% increase in said tax levy; and

WHEREAS, Section 3-c of the General Municipal Law provides as follows:

A local government may adopt a budget that requires a tax levy that is greater than the tax levy limit for the coming fiscal year, not including any levy necessary to support the expenditures pursuant to subparagraphs (i) through (iv) of paragraph g of subdivision two of this section, only if the governing body of such local government first enacts, by a vote of sixty percent of the total voting power of such body, a local law to override such limit for such coming fiscal year only, or in the case of a district or fire district, a resolution, approved by a vote of sixty percent of the total voting power of such body, to override such limit for such coming fiscal year only.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Fire Commissioners hereby approves a determination to override the real property tax cap for the 2025 budget to permit an annual real property tax levy that will exceed the real property tax cap with an increase in said tax levy over the two (2%) percent limit and result in a final annual fire district budget in the amount of \$909,057 and

The adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly put to a vote and upon roll call the vote was as follows:

Chairman Gallagher aye

Commissioner Roemer aye

Commissioner Tavalacci aye

Commissioner Ekholm aye

Commissioner Trail aye

The resolution was thereupon duly declared to have been adopted.

Dated: Pound Ridge, New York

October 15, 2024

**Motion to accept the revised budget made by Commissioner Trail, seconded by Commissioner Ekholm.**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2: APPROVE FINAL BUDGET FOR 2025**

WHEREAS, the Board of Fire Commissioners of the Pound Ridge Fire District must adopt a proposed budget for 2025 and estimate of fund balances in preparation for the annual fire district budget hearing and did so in preparation for the budget hearing, and

WHEREAS, the Board of Fire Commissioners of the Fire District held the annual fire district budget hearing on notice to the public on October 15, 2024, and

WHEREAS, the Board has considered the proposed budget and comments received on the proposed budget on October 15, 2024 at said budget hearing, and

WHEREAS, the Board has determined that that financial needs of the fire district and fire department for fiscal year 2025 cannot be supported by a budget that would comply with the real property tax cap established pursuant to Section 3-c of the General Municipal Law as the proposed budget for 2025 calls for a real property tax levy that will exceed the real property tax cap permitting only a 2.00 % increase in said tax levy; and

WHEREAS, Section 3-c of the General Municipal Law provides as follows:

A local government may adopt a budget that requires a tax levy that is greater than the Tax levy limit for the coming fiscal year, not including any levy necessary to support the expenditures pursuant to subparagraphs (i) through (iv) of paragraph g of subdivision two of this section, only if the governing body of such local government first enacts, by a vote of sixty percent of the total voting power of such body, a local law to override such limit for such coming

fiscal year only, or in the case of a district or fire district, a resolution, approved by a vote of sixty percent of the total voting power of such body, to override such limit for such coming fiscal year only.

WHEREAS, previously at this meeting this Board of Fire Commissioners passed a resolution to override the real property tax cap for the 2025 Budget.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Fire Commissioners hereby approves the Final Budget for the Pound Ridge Fire District for 2025 attached hereto and made a part hereof in the amount of \$909,057.

The adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly put to a vote and upon roll call the vote was as follows:

Chairman Gallagher Aye  
Commissioner Roemer Aye  
Commissioner Tavalacci Aye  
Commissioner Ekholm Aye  
Commissioner Trail Aye

The resolution was thereupon duly declared to have been adopted

Dated: Pound Ridge, New York  
October 15 , 2024

**Meeting adjourned at 9:26p.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Justin Friedland Secretary/Treasurer