Regular Commissioners’ Meeting

Plattekill Fire District

May 13th, 2025

Time: 7:03 PM

Salute to Flag

Commissioner’s Present:

Commissioner Brian Stafford Naye Commissioner Robert Jackson Aye Late

Commissioner Jim Hoppenstedt Aye

Commissioner Richard Merrill Aye

Commissioner Patricia Betanzos Aye

Treasurer Cynthia Delgado Aye

Secretary Nancy Papo Aye

Item #1 Public Input:

Judy Mayle brought concerns about commissioner board should be able to meet for fact finding wants to know why would want to meet in secret and not meet in public per the public meeting law. Asked remainder of board if they agree with having secret meeting and Commissioner Richard Merrill stated no Chairman is reaching out to attorney to ask that question. Commissioner Patricia Betanzos learned at training that could meet for fact finding, would like in writing from attorney on this subject. A proposal in regards for reimbursement format. The board is behind on updating policies should have additional meetings. Lisa Betanzos addressed Judy Mayle’s question on meeting can not do everything in 2-hour meeting difference in secret meeting and ones that the public does not attend.

New Members: Chiefs Report

Item#2 Vouchers:

\* Upon motion made, seconded and discussion held, the following resolution was approved by the commissioners, Be it resolved Commissioner Robert Jackson made a motion to pay the vouchers. Commissioner Patricia Betanzos seconded the motion.

. On the vote: Commissioner Jim Hoppenstedt Aye

Commissioner Patricia Betanzos Aye

Commissioner Richard Merrill Aye

Commissioner Robert Jackson Aye

Item#3 Meeting Minutes

\* Upon motion made, seconded and discussion held, the following resolution was approved by the commissioners, Be it resolved Commissioner Patricia Betanzos made a motion to accept April 8th meeting minutes. Commissioner Richard Merrill seconded the motion.

. On the vote: Commissioner Jim Hoppenstedt Aye

Commissioner Patricia Betanzos Aye

Commissioner Richard Merrill Aye

Commissioner Robert Jackson Aye

Item#4 Treasurers Report Statements reviewed by Commissioner Patricia Betanzos

**TREASURERS’ REPORT**

**MAY 13,2025**

General Fund - $766,043.35

Petty Cash - $241.00

Vehicle Reserve - $11,818.00

Land & Building Acct. - $40,936.47

A total of 3 deposits were made this month. VFIS sent 2 checks, $8934.96 and $10,441.00. This is for the repair of the ambulance and the bay doors at Station 1 from the accident to the doors and ambulance. A deposit of $250.00 was included, this was sent to the District and is for the Department fund raiser. A check will be issued to the Department. The United States Treasury sent a check of 214.50, this was for an over payment of our payroll taxes.

A resolution is included with this report. NYLAF is merging with NYCLASS and a resolution is needed for us to continue banking with NYCLASS.

\* Upon motion made, seconded and discussion held, the following resolution was approved by the commissioners, Be it resolved Commissioner Patricia Betanzos made a motion to accept resolution for banking see attached. Commissioner Robert Jackson seconded the motion.

. On the vote: Commissioner Jim Hoppenstedt Aye

Commissioner Patricia Betanzos Aye

Commissioner Richard Merrill Aye

Commissioner Robert Jackson Aye

A transfer from A2680 Insurance Proceeds to 5007 Station Repair in the amount of $10,441.00 for bay doors Station 1 must also be done to cover the cost of repairs.

\* Upon motion made, seconded and discussion held, the following resolution was approved by the commissioners, Be it resolved Commissioner Patricia Betanzos made a motion to put 10,441.00 from A2680 insurance proceeds to 5007 for repair of bay doors. Commissioner Richard Merrill seconded the motion.

. On the vote: Commissioner Jim Hoppenstedt Aye

Commissioner Patricia Betanzos Aye

Commissioner Richard Merrill Aye

Commissioner Robert Jackson Aye

Vouchers 25-231 to 25-302 in the amount of $44,173.80 are presented for payment.

\* Upon motion made, seconded and discussion held, the following resolution was approved by the commissioners, Be it resolved Commissioner Patricia Betanzos made a motion accept treasurers report as read. Commissioner Richard Merrill seconded the motion

. On the vote: Commissioner Jim Hoppenstedt Aye

Commissioner Patricia Betanzos Aye

Commissioner Richard Merrill Aye

Commissioner Robert Jackson Aye

A question on land and building fund and how the funds can be used can also do repairs on building read resolution of the Land and building fund.

Item#5 Chief’s Report

**Chiefs Office Report**

**Commissioners’ Meeting, May 13th, 2025**

Call Breakdown, 70 Calls for Month of April (1 UAC, 99% for March)

* 46 EMS Alarms / 37 in district - 9 Mutual Aid

1. 28 Critical Alarms
2. 13 Stable Alarms
3. 5 Unstable Alarms
4. Mutual Aid EMS:
5. 2 - CFD 21
6. 4- MFD 40
7. 3- WVAC 76

*1UAC for total EMS Alarms, 98% Response Rate, EMS (100% Rate for the Mutual aid EMS))*

* 6 Personal Injury Motor Vehicle Accidents
* 7 Mutual Aid (Fire)

1. 4 Cronomer Valley Fire
2. 1 Middlehope Fire
3. 1 Modena Fire
4. 1 Walden Fire

* 3 Investigations, Smoke
* 2 Structure Fires
* 1 Automatic Fire Alarm
* 1 Brush Fire
* 1 HAZMAT CO Alarm
* 1 Pump Out, Cellar
* 1 Outdoor Electrical / Trees & Wires Down
* 1 Possible Explosion

Total Calls for 2025 (to May 1st, 2025): 258 (5 UAC’s 98.06% Response)

* EMS Alarms: 168 (98.06% Response Rate)
* Fire Alarms: 90 (100% Response)

**Drills May 2025:**

* Monday, May 5, Golf Outing - No Drill (Cancelled due to weather)
* Monday, May 12, Firefighter Appreciation BBQ
* Monday, May 19, EMS Appreciation BBQ
* Monday, May 26, Memorial Day - No Drill
* There will be an extrication car available at Station 1 every weekend for the month of May. We encourage everyone to use this opportunity to develop vehicle familiarization in extrication. Please let the chief officers know if there will be any tools used on vehicles. Must be done with groups of 2 or more.

**Parade Dates and Locations: (already approved)**

1. Memorial Day – Town of Plattekill, May 24th, 2025
2. Memorial Day – Town of Newburgh, May 25th, 2025
3. Hudson Valley Parade (Mardi Gras & Dress), Lake George, June 11th – 14th 2025
4. Ulster County Volunteer Firefighters Association Parade, Ellenville, July 26th, 2025

* District Physicals are underway and shall be completed by May 30th, 2025. The report will be supplied after May 31st to the district and the department on completion status. This will include CPR. What is our status with the possibility of the new location for physicals?

No report back on new location.

* Thirty (30) members have been brought current with their required arson checks and submitted to UC Sheriff’s office. We have already Gotten the results back from the UC Sheriff’s office. The Chiefs office after reviewing the policy for membership for any volunteer fire agency in NYS, all members should have an arson check completed. This includes Junior, social and auxiliary members. We have started to work on this requirement and submit these to UC Sheriff’s office as well. An Additional ten (10) have been sent in last week to bring us up to requirement.
* The New 47-45 Qualifications process has begun. Most equipment has been mounted and installed on to the new brush unit. This will be the first-out primary brush equipment out of station 2. The 47-66 trailer has been re-organized, and the appropriate equipment is mounted. The new 47-45 is now in service.

No update on grant reimbursement

* All district equipment has been registered with NYS and we should start seeing titles and/or plates and registrations soon

1. The Plattekill Fire Department is having a fundraiser boot drive on June 1st, 2025. Need permission to have the event and use district equipment.

\* Upon motion made, seconded and discussion held, the following resolution was approved by the commissioners, Be it resolved Commissioner Richard Merrill made a motion to allow apparatus at fundraiser. Commissioner Patricia Betanzos seconded the motion.

. On the vote: Commissioner Jim Hoppenstedt Aye

Commissioner Patricia Betanzos Aye

Commissioner Richard Merrill Aye

Commissioner Robert Jackson Aye

1. Need to purchase replacement tablecloths and pop-up tents. The current units, for the most part, were donations and ten (10) Years Old.
2. Table Clothes, Qty 5, Not to Exceed $150.00 ea., Subtotal $750.00
3. Pop Up Tent, QTY 4, Will be reported on later. Waiting on quotes.

\* Upon motion made, seconded and discussion held, the following resolution was approved by the commissioners, Be it resolved Commissioner Richard Merrill made a motion to purchase tablecloths not to exceed 750.00. Commissioner Jim Hoppenstedt seconded the motion.

. On the vote: Commissioner Jim Hoppenstedt Aye

Commissioner Patricia Betanzos Aye

Commissioner Richard Merrill Aye

Commissioner Robert Jackson Aye

3. New Members voted in to the Plattekill Fire Department are as follows:

1. Collins, Savannah – Junior Member, Investigation Report returned Clean by UCSO; DL# 234-076-389
2. Garcia, Mark – Probationary Member, Investigation Report returned Clean by UCSO; DL# 139-872-129
3. Lee, Kevin – Probationary Member, Investigation Report returned Clean by UCSO; DL# 764-100-517
4. Noboa Balseca, Juan Carlos, Probationary Member Investigation Report returned Clean by UCSO; DL# 272-899-234 (Permit Only)

4. Discussion on Spanish Speaking members and/ or new members. The fire district needs to formulate a plan for when non-English speaking individuals join the agency and how we will coordinate and implement a clear precise plan to communicate with these individuals.

Will come back with ideas.

5. New Driver Qualifications

**Qualification on 47-46**

1. Justin Dalton

**Qualification on the new 47-45**

1. Cutchin, Quincy
2. Foster, Doug
3. Foster, Jessica
4. Jackson, Robert
5. Kopaskie, Aaron
6. Mancuso, Christopher
7. Pisano, Josh
8. Stephens, Chantal
9. Thomakos, Zoe

6. In the approved NYS Budget, the allowance for billing for fire districts has been extended an additional five (5) years. Which is Bill 2025-S6255

7. I will be going to the NYS Fire Chiefs show in Syracuse NY, June 4th to June 7th, 2025. It will be no cost to the fire district. However, I will need clearance to take the chief’s car.

\* Upon motion made, seconded and discussion held, the following resolution was approved by the commissioners, Be it resolved Commissioner Jim Hoppenstedt made a motion to allow chiefs cars if other chiefs wants to go to Syracuse. Commissioner Richard Merrill seconded the motion.

. On the vote: Commissioner Jim Hoppenstedt Aye

Commissioner Patricia Betanzos Aye

Commissioner Richard Merrill Aye

Commissioner Robert Jackson Aye

Submitted:

**Christopher Mancus-o**

Chief Christopher Mancuso

A discussion on EMS billing and where we are on the RFQ was at last month meeting

Item # 6 New Business

A discussion on EMS with county plan for EMS

Franks Lawn service contract keeping rates the same

\* Upon motion made, seconded and discussion held, the following resolution was approved by the commissioners, Be it resolved Commissioner Richard Merrill made a motion to go with Franks Lawn service. Commissioner Patricia Betanzos seconded the motion.

. On the vote: Commissioner Jim Hoppenstedt Aye

Commissioner Patricia Betanzos Aye

Commissioner Richard Merrill Aye

Commissioner Robert Jackson Aye

Town board invitation for chief officers and board of commissioners in reference to solar farms Chief feels this meeting is not necessary until the town board decides on if they are accepting the solar farms. Robert Jackson is going to reach out to town to reschedule busy week due to EMS week.

Antidiscrimination policy to review for next meeting

Item # 7 Old Business

A Discussion on janitor for station 2 wants to know when the spec will go out for cleaning service. And snow and ice removal bid packages. Will bring back

Commissioner Patricia Betanzos wanted to reply to the public input by Ms. Mayle “She stated I did not suggest that the commissioners have secret meetings, and I did not say we were trying to break the law. I was insulted by her statement which alluded that I asked to break the law.”

\* Upon motion made, seconded and discussion held, the following resolution was approved by the commissioners, Be it resolved Commissioner Patricia Betanzos made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Robert Jackson seconded the motion

. On the vote: Commissioner Jim Hoppenstedt Aye

Commissioner Patricia Betanzos Aye

Commissioner Richard Merrill Aye

Commissioner Robert Jackson Aye

Adjourned

Submitted Nancy Papo

Time 9:04

**RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT BIDS FOR THE**

**REMOUNT OF ONE (1) NEW OSAGE SUPER**

**WARRIOR AMBULANCE TO A 2013 CHEVROLET G4500 CHASSIS**

At a meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners of the PLATTEKILL FIRE DISTRICT, held at the Plattekill Fire House, in the Hamlet of Plattekill, Town of Plattekill, County of Ulster and State of New York, on the 13th day of May, 2025, there were:

**PRESENT: ABSENT:**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_X\_\_\_\_\_\_ BRIAN STAFFORD,** Chairman

**\_\_\_\_X\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ JAMES HOPPENSTEDT,** Commissioner

**\_\_\_\_X\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ ROBERT JACKSON,** Commissioner

**\_\_\_\_X\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ RICHARD MERRILL,** Commissioner

**\_\_\_\_X\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ PATRICIA BETANZOS,** Commissioner

**WHEREAS**, the District, has experienced the increased volume of medical rescue calls, both within the District and in the response to mutual aid assistance, and

**WHEREAS,**  the District currently is relying upon the District’s current medical rescue vehicles to meet this increased demand, resulting in the acquisition of new rescue vehicles to replace medical rescue vehicles that were approaching the end of their probable useful life for the type of usage within this District, and the District has and is exploring options that can extend the period of probable useful life of those currently in use, and

**WHEREAS,** the District has reviewed certain specifications for retiring of the current 2013 Chevrolet Rescue Vehicle, on a G4500 Chassis, and it has been determined the same existing Ambulance Box, could have its period of usage extended by the remounting of this Osage Super Warrior Ambulance Box, with all necessary repairs and replacements thereof, currently mounted to the aforesaid Chassis, onto a Ford E-series 158”, gas 2028 or newer Chassis, thereby providing a means of addressing the needs of the of the District in responding to medical rescue and service calls, at a lesser expense than acquiring a new unit, in the foreseeable future,

**NOW, THEREFORE, ON MOTION OF: COMMISSIONER Robert Jackson,** seconded by: **COMMISSIONER Patricia Betanzos,** providing as follows:

“That the Board be authorized to direct the Secretary to accept bid proposals from all interested parties for the remount of the Osage Super Warrior Ambulance**,** with a Ford E-series 1158” E450, Gas, 2028 or newer Chassis, using the standard package for such purposes, but to be available within forty (40) months of awarding of a bid, and subject to a public referendum for approval of financing, if deemed appropriate and necessary by the Board, and subject to the right of the District to reject any and all bids, with the members present, voting as follows:

**AYE: NAY: ABSENT:**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_X\_\_\_ BRIAN STAFFORD,** Chairman

**\_\_X\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_ JAMES HOPPENSTEDT,** Commissioner

**\_\_X\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_ ROBERT JACKSON,** Commissioner

**\_\_X\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_ RICHARD MERRILL,** Commissioner

**\_\_X\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_ PATRICIA BETANZOS,** Commissioner

**IT IS HEREBY**

**RESOLVED,** that the Board shall direct the Secretary to accept bid proposals from all interested parties for the purchase, by the Plattekill Fire District, of one remount of an Osage Super Warrior Ambulance Box currently mounted to a 2013 Chevrolet G4500 Chassis onto a Ford E-series 158” E 450, gas 2028 or newer Chassis, to be provided by the bidder, and it is further

**RESOLVED,** that notice of the solicitations of such bid proposals shall be published once in the designated newspaper for said District, at least five (5) days prior to the opening of said bids, with such bids to be received in sealed envelopes not later than 7:00 o’clock in the evening, Eastern Day-light Savings Time, on June 24th

2025, and it is further

**RESOLVED,**  any bids that are not before the Board of Fire Commissioners at said time, date and place shall be rejected as not complying with the terms set forth above.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

By: NANCY PAPO

TITLE: SECRETARY

FOR: PLATTEKILL FIRE DISTRICT