

Coldenham Fire District  
Board of Fire Commissioners  
January 12, 2015

**Call to Order**

The regular meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners of the Coldenham Fire District was held on January 12, 2015 at the Coldenham Fire House. Commissioner Besser opened the meeting with the pledge to the flag. A moment of silence was observed for the passing of John Hanewich.

**Roll Call**

Commissioners present: Tim Besser, Joe Keenan, Warren Decker and newly elected Commissioner Wayne Jacobowitz. Commissioner Grecco was absent due to illness.

Commissioner Besser welcomed Commissioner Jacobowitz to the board.

Also present: Mary Keenan, Secretary  
Linda Miller, Treasurer

**Acceptance of Minutes**

A motion was made by Commissioner Keenan to dispense with the reading of the monthly meeting minutes of December 8, 2014 and the Reorganization Meeting Minutes of January 5, 2015 and accept them as corrected. Commissioner Decker seconded the motion. Unanimous approval (4 ayes, 0 nays) was received by those in attendance. Motion carried. Correction to December minutes: page 5, second bullet under Further Information from the Chief, first sentence should read, "Chief Draiss would like to purchase 4 cases of pop up cones with rubber bases at a cost of \$190 each for a total of \$760. Also correct spelling of Minotor on page 5 and 7. Correction to January 5 minutes: page 1, paragraph 7, second sentence should read, "Joe Keenan nominated Tim Besser as Chairman of the Board of Fire Commissioners for 2015. Also, on page 3, the fifth sentence was removed. (Tim Besser will make the appointments for the following committees and report back at next week's meeting due to an oil spill:)

**Communications**

- Fire District Commissioner training is available online from Scicchitano & Pinsky for the amount of \$100. The flyer was given to Commissioner Jacobowitz. Commissioner Besser stated that this training is also offered at the training center from time to time.
- We received a survey from the Association of Fire Districts of the State of New York, Inc.
- We received our monthly RBC Wealth Management report. The ending account value as of December 31, 2014 was \$1,029,970.29.

**Hall Requests**

Beverly Decker on January 24, 2015 from 10 AM to 5 PM for a birthday party.

A motion was made by Commissioner Jacobowitz and seconded by Commissioner Keenan to approve Beverly Decker's request to use the hall on January 24, 2015. Unanimous approval (3 ayes, 0 nays and 1 abstain) was received by those in attendance. Motion

Coldenham Fire District  
Board of Fire Commissioners  
January 12, 2015

carried.

**Public Discussion**

None.

**Committee Reports**

**Space Committee and Surplus List:** Nothing to report at this time. Commissioner Besser stated that as spring gets closer, we need to look at capping the blacktop out back and potentially the rest of the blacktop.

**Safety Committee:** One minor injury with no action taken. Paperwork is being filed.

**Mack Restoration Committee:** Commissioner Keenan has nothing to report at this time.

**Old Business**

**Physicals:** Commissioner Besser spoke to Dr Basri's office. They said that we could have February 10, February 17 and February the 22<sup>nd</sup> if needed. The office will be open beginning at 5:30, to complete paperwork and the doctor will be there about 6. Commissioner Jacobowitz asked if we could have the paperwork completed prior to those dates. Commissioner Besser thought that it is available on line. The Chief will post a sign-up sheet.

**Driver Qualification/Active Duty Criteria:** A work session will be held on January 31 from 10 AM to 2 PM. The Chiefs will need to attend. The secretary will post the notice in the Wallkill Valley Times.

**LOSAP/Service Awards:** Commissioner Keenan stated that the report was run and it will be posted after the training points have been determined. Members are asked to look at it and report any errors to Commissioner Keenan. Commissioner Keenan stated that he spoke to PenFlex with regard to John Hanewich and the paperwork is on the way. Commissioner Besser also stated that John had responded to a call on Friday. Commissioner Besser spoke to Richard Danzig of the Safety Group who handles our comp. We are going to try to submit for the VFBL because he had a heart attack after responding. At best, it is a long shot, but we are going to try.

**Server and Workstations:** Commissioner Keenan will get them hooked up as soon as he has time.

**Kick plate for the Trophy Case:** Commissioner Besser stated that the boards are cut, but he is having a difficult time finding the correct stain. He'll keep trying. The public asked if Commissioner Besser had asked Billy Gasperetti. He replied that he did not, but that was a good idea.

**PA/Paging system:** Commissioner Besser stated that the referendum is cleared. The PA/Paging system is partially installed and we are just waiting for them to come back and

Coldenham Fire District  
Board of Fire Commissioners  
January 12, 2015

finish it up.

**Fuel Audit:** Commissioner Keenan is still working on it.

**RFP's for Electrician, Plumber and General Maintenance:** Commissioner Besser printed the RFP's for everyone to look at. He will send a PDF file to the secretary so she will be able to email it to those interested. Commissioner Keenan made a motion seconded by Commissioner Decker to advertise RFP's for Plumbing/HVAC, general contracting and electrical work, sealed bids to be opened at the next regular meeting on February 9th. Unanimous approval (4 ayes, 0 nays) was received by those in attendance. Motion carried. The secretary will publish the notice in the Times Herald Record.

**Building Repair:** Commissioner Besser asked that the board take about a half hour on the 31<sup>st</sup> to do a walk around and make a list of things that need our attention. He would like to at least get the chair closet fixed this year. He also feels that we need to address the steel rotting of this building and need to get that fixed.

**Kaba Keys and Locks:** Commissioner Besser spoke with Architectural Door and Hardware which is also Hudson Valley Contracting on Racquet Road. They are a Schlag lock dealer, which is what we have right now on the outside of the building. Commissioner Besser will be meeting with them sometime on Friday to discuss and get pricing for all the interior doors. We would go back to key fobs. It would eliminate all the Kaba keys. The doors still have locks in them, so if the electronics fail, you would still be able to get into the building.

**Outside Lighting:** Commissioner Besser was not sure if they ever came back to replace the two lights. We will check with Commissioner Grecco next month. Commissioner Besser will contact John Sutton. He also has to come back to bank the lights in the hall so the four front lights can be turned off while using the projector.

**Consultant:** Commissioner Besser advised the board that we no longer need to look into hiring a consultant.

**GFI outlets:** Commissioner Besser advised the board that the GFI outlets are being changed.

**New Business**

Commissioner Besser advised the board that the new Fire District Officer's Guide is upstairs in the office. He says that they are \$159 a piece and you can get the forms online. He feels that everyone should have one. After some discussions, a motion was made by Commissioner Keenan and seconded by Commissioner Decker to purchase five Fire District Officer's Guide from James Publishing at a cost of \$159 each for a total of \$795. Unanimous approval (4 ayes, 0 nays) was received by those in attendance. Motion carried.

Commissioner Decker advised the board that there was a Chief Car demo here the other day. The cost was about \$35,000. It was a Ford Explorer with interceptor package, cloth

Coldenham Fire District  
Board of Fire Commissioners  
January 12, 2015

seats, and a cage in the back to protect occupants in the event of an impact. There is an existing purchase contract in New York for these vehicles so no bidding would be required. They are a little smaller than what we're used to, but they are also more affordable and probably more affordable on gas. The Chief felt that there wasn't enough room in the back. Commissioner Besser thought it would be another \$7,000 to go up to an Expedition, if more space was needed. Commissioner Besser asked the board to think about this until next meeting.

### **Chief's Report**

#### **Membership**

- New members: 0
- Qualified drivers: 0
- New Drivers Requested: 0
- Drivers dropped: 0
- Physicals: On going
- Members passing probation: 0
- Members reinstated: 0
- Members dropped: 0
- Social Members dropped: 0
- Status switch: 1 Crystal Hanewich Social to Active
- Members suspended: 0
- Members resigned: 0

#### **Further Information from the Chief**

- Chief Draiss advised the board that Assistant Chief Hunt needs an EMT refresher. The book and online access will cost \$194.93.
- Chief Draiss advised the board that the company will be having their awards dinner in the hall on Friday, January 16 and would like permission to have beer and wine.
- Chief Draiss would like permission to allow Assistant Chief Barbara Gasperetti to get a new full uniform.
- Chief Draiss would like to schedule the big trucks' service in January. He will make arrangements with them.
- The fire company would like to have a blood drive in April.
- Chief Draiss stated that we lost John Hanewich and he commends him for his service. He also advised the board that the company had a life saving event and he wanted to commend those involved in that. Commissioner Besser thanked Chief Draiss for his service as well.

A motion was made by Commissioner Keenan and seconded by Commissioner Jacobowitz to approve the cost of \$194.93 for an EMT book and on line access for Assistant Chief Hunt and to allow Assistant Chief Gasperetti to be fitted and get a new full uniform. Unanimous approval (4 ayes, 0 nays) was received by those in attendance. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Commissioner Keenan and seconded by Commissioner Besser to

Coldenham Fire District  
Board of Fire Commissioners  
January 12, 2015

allow the fire company to have beer and wine at their awards dinner on Friday. Unanimous approval (4 ayes, 0 nays) was received by those in attendance. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Commissioner Decker and seconded by Commissioner Jacobowitz to allow the fire company the use of the hall for a blood drive when they pick an available date in April. Unanimous approval (4 ayes, 0 nays) was received by those in attendance. Motion carried.

**Further Information from the Commissioners**

Commissioner Keenan would like to explore the possibility of getting life insurance for active members. He will look into it.

Commissioner Besser advised the board that he received a call from Ken Andrews who is a representative with VFIS. Our insurance renews every year in March and wanted to know if we wanted them to come in and give us a quote or not. Rose and Kiernan gave us some quotes last year and we are not required to get quotes every year. Commissioner Keenan suggested that we wait for a couple more years before getting new quotes.

Commissioner Keenan brought up the possibility of granting John Hanewich the title of Honorary Assistant Chief. Commissioner Besser suggested maybe doing something at the company level, like Cadence Officer Emeritus, being John was a big parade guy.

**Information from the Treasurer/Secretary**

Treasurer Miller amended the 2014 budget for the end of the year:

**PAGE 1**

FROM	TO	
Gas & Electric	Building Maintenance	\$1787.97
Phones	Building Maintenance	1970.68
Gas & Oil (Vehicles)	Building Maintenance	2413.90
Misc Other	Gas and Electric	1486.49
Misc Other	Fire Protection	133.34
Misc Other	Phones	491.30
Misc Other	Gas & Oil (Vehicles)	347.24
Misc Other	Postage and Office	1430.27
Physicals	Postage and Office	5504.19
Dues, Meetings, Seminars	Postage and Office	3575.81
Dues, Meetings, Seminars	Vehicle Repair & Maintenance	1551.75
Publication of Legal Notices	Fire Protection	200.00

**PAGE 2**

FROM	TO	
Unemployment Ins.	Social Security	55.48
LOSAP	Ins. Building & Equipment	<u>454.16</u>

Total \$21,402.58

Coldenham Fire District  
Board of Fire Commissioners  
January 12, 2015

She also advised the board that \$16,000 needed to be moved from the General fund checking to the Capital Reserve fund for Real Property and Acquisition.

A motion was made by Commissioner Keenan seconded by Commissioner Decker to approve the budget line transfers as stated to close out the 2014 budget and to move \$16,000 from the General Fund Checking to the Capital Reserve for Real Property and Acquisition. Unanimous approval (4 ayes, 0 nays) was received by those in attendance. Motion carried.

Treasurer Miller advised the board that she filed the forms for the 2% fire tax for 2015, so that will go into our account and we can forward it to the Benevolent Association. We received a check from Utica Mutual for a dividend in the amount of \$4705.52 and a check for \$110 from Steve Molnar for the purchase of the surplus pump. She filed the tax cap and tax freeze papers with the state. The tax cap (after speaking with the auditor) was a carryover of \$13,000 that we hadn't accounted for. It doesn't really affect our budget, but she had to include it in the bottom line for the budget. We did not punch the tax cap. The tax freeze paperwork was filed.

We have a payback for the Town of Montgomery for \$70 and she is also sitting on the tax abatement for about \$15000.

**Approved Expenditures**

James Publishing	\$	795.00
EMT Refresher		194.93
Alfi's		?

**Public Discussion**

None.

**Bills Signed**

Commissioner Decker made a motion to pay bills if found correct, seconded by Commissioner Jacobowitz. Unanimous approval (4 ayes, 0 nays) by those in attendance was received. Motion carried.

**Adjournment**

Since all regular business was completed, Commissioner Decker moved to adjourn the meeting seconded by Commissioner Keenan. Unanimous approval (4 ayes, 0 nays) by those in attendance was received. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary E. Keenan  
Secretary