

Coldenham Fire District  
Board of Fire Commissioners  
April 13, 2015

**Call to Order**

The regular meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners of the Coldenham Fire District was held on April 13, 2015 at the Coldenham Fire House. Commissioner Keenan opened the meeting with the pledge to the flag.

**Roll Call**

Commissioners present: Joe Keenan, Anita Grecco & Warren Decker. Wayne Jacobowitz arrived late. Tim Besser was excused due to work obligations.

Also present: Mary Keenan, Secretary  
Linda Miller, Treasurer

**Acceptance of Minutes**

A motion was made by Commissioner Grecco and seconded by Commissioner Decker to dispense with the reading of the monthly meeting minutes of March 9, 2015 and accept them as written. Unanimous approval (3 ayes, 0 nays) was received by those in attendance. Motion carried.

**Communications**

- We received the Fire District Affairs newsletter.
- We received a postcard from the Association of Fire Districts of Orange County notifying us of their next meeting on April 28 at 7:30 at the South Blooming Grove Firehouse.
- A letter from Ambit Energy was received was received informing the board that we are currently enrolled under Ambit Energy's Select Variable Plan and we could possibly save more by switching to the Guaranteed Savings Plan.
- We received a letter from the IRS stating that they had updated our address to the PO Box.
- We received our monthly LOSAP investment statements, auto pay and payouts etc. The account balance as of March 31, 2015 was \$1,000,613.91.

**Hall Requests**

Coldenham Ladies Auxiliary on May 31, 2015 for a paint & pastry fundraiser all day  
Cathy Keenan on December 5, 2015 for a birthday party from 9 am to 6 pm.  
Al Royal on May 9, 2015 for a birthday party from 1 pm to 6 pm.  
Fred Stipak on November 1, 2015 for a birthday party.  
Colden Park Homeowner's Association on May 20, 2015 for a meeting.  
Crystal Hanewich on June 7, 2015 for a graduation party from 10 am to 3 pm.

Commissioner Grecco stated that everyone submitted their deposits except Crystal Hanewich. She will call her and get a check.

A motion was made by Commissioner Grecco and seconded by Commissioner Decker to approve all requested dates. Unanimous approval (3 ayes, 0 nays) was received by those in attendance. Motion carried.

Coldenham Fire District  
Board of Fire Commissioners  
April 13, 2015

**Public Discussion**

None.

**Committee Reports**

**Space Committee and Surplus List:** Nothing to report at this time.

**Safety Committee:** Nothing to report at this time.

**Mack Restoration Committee:** Nothing to report at this time.

**Building Repair Committee:** Commissioner Decker reported that Commissioner Jacobowitz surveyed the building and property. He made a list and will give it to Commissioner Decker to type and get to the other commissioners. Commissioner Jacobowitz joined the meeting at this time. He submitted a typed list of repairs and/or upgrades needed. Commissioner Keenan suggested that we go through the list and prioritize our needs. He suggested that it be broken down into a list of repairs that need to go out to bid, and repairs that can be made by our general contractor. It was agreed that we need a professional to come out and look at the roof. Commissioner Keenan also suggested that Commissioner Decker and Commissioner Jacobowitz approach Andy Garofalo about any leads or paperwork he may already have about building projects. Commissioner Decker suggested that more spots be added up front for handicapped visitors. If we still want visitors to use the back parking area, handicapped spots need to be placed there and the side door will need to be handicapped accessible.

**Old Business**

**Physicals:** Commissioner Keenan advised the board that about 55 physicals were completed. Commissioner Besser composed a letter that the secretary will send to the remaining 22 firefighters that need to complete their annual physical. She also requested an updated list of firefighters and their addresses.

**Driver Qualification/Active Duty Criteria:** The next tentative work session is for May 30, 2015 from 10AM to 2PM. The secretary will wait until next month's meeting to post the legal notice.

**LOSAP/Service Awards:** Commissioner Keenan stated that the LOSAP for 2014 is done and was posted for the appropriate time. Paperwork needs to be signed and notarized tonight so it can be sent out.

**Workstations:** Everything is done and this can be removed from the agenda. If anyone needs help finding their files/documents, see Commissioner Keenan.

**Kick plate for the Trophy Case:** Everything is cut and ready to be installed. We just have to find the time to do it.

**Fuel Audit:** Commissioner Keenan will have the fuel audit through December 2014 for

Coldenham Fire District  
Board of Fire Commissioners  
April 13, 2015

next month's meeting.

**Kaba Keys and Locks:** Commissioner Jacobowitz would like to put this with the Building Repair committee. He will get with Commissioner Besser for any necessary information.

**Replace (2) 2008 Chief Trucks:** Cronomer Valley will be bringing their truck over so the board and Chiefs can see it tonight.

**Life insurance for Active Members:** Commissioner Keenan advised the board that all necessary information was gathered and will send it out for a quote. He is looking to get quotes for coverage in increments of \$10K.

**Lawn & Grounds:** Commissioner Decker updated the Lawn and Grounds Bid Specifications for 2015. The secretary will publish the request for bids in the Wallkill Valley Times April 22, 2015 for receipt by May 11, 2015. Point of Contact will be Commissioner Decker. A motion was made by Commissioner Grecco and seconded by Commissioner Jacobowitz to request bids for the lawn and grounds. Unanimous approval (4 ayes, 0 nays) was approved by those in attendance. Motion carried.

**Wash Bay Floor:** Commissioner Decker advised the board that the wash bay floor is peeling and there is a giant crack by M270. Commissioner Keenan suggested that we take pictures to document the issues. Commissioner Decker will contact Commissioner Besser for follow-up. Treasurer Miller has the following contact: Engine Bay Floors, Michael DiCaprio (610) 530-7710.

**Pre-employment & Background Checks:** Commissioner Keenan would like to rescind part of his motion made last month that all applicants to the fire department need to pass a pre-employment physical. He would like the background check to stand as it is required by the state. A motion was made by Commissioner Keenan and seconded by Commissioner Decker to rescind the part of Commissioner Keenan's motion of last month that all applicants to the fire department need to pass a pre-employment physical. Unanimous approval (4 ayes, 0 nays) was received by those in attendance. Motion carried. He would like to have three people, (Chief Draiss, President Keith Aigner and Commissioner Decker) investigate whether all members, including social, life, out of state, etc can be asked to submit to an annual drug test and who (Fire Company or Fire District) would have the authority to implement it.

**2014 Audit:** We received the preliminary report from Vanacore. Most items have already been resolved. The only things they still need are items associated with LOSAP for last year.

**Replace (2) 2008 Chief Trucks:** Commissioner Keenan stated that the board brought up the issue to replace the two Chief Trucks. Since then, another thought was voiced that we could buy one this year and one next year. Discussion ensued. Cronomer Valley's truck arrived for viewing. Commissioner Keenan suggested a 15 minute break of the meeting to

Coldenham Fire District  
Board of Fire Commissioners  
April 13, 2015

inspect the truck (8:25 PM). Meeting back in session at 8:40. Commissioner Keenan advised that board that we still have differences of opinion. He suggests that we look to see if there are any Tahoes that we could piggyback with. Chief Draiss will forward the names of the websites that he is aware of to Commissioner Keenan. Commissioner Keenan thanked the Chief of Cronomer Valley for taking the time to show us his truck.

**New Business**

Governor Cuomo signed Chapter 496 of the Laws of 2014 into law amending the General Municipal Law and the Volunteer Ambulance Workers' Benefits Law to make available coverage for volunteer firefighters and volunteer ambulance workers when they volunteer their services to another volunteer fire company or volunteer ambulance company before an officer in charge at the scene accepts their services. In order to be covered, the Coldenham Fire District would need to adopt a resolution. A motion was made by Commissioner Jacobowitz and seconded by Commissioner Decker to adopt a resolution to make available the coverage provided by General Municipal Law Section 209-i1-b which states:

Whenever a volunteer firefighter of the Coldenham Fire District provides services under General Municipal Law Section 209-i when there is no jurisdictional officer in command present, such volunteer firefighter shall be entitled to coverage under the VFBL coverage provided by the Coldenham Fire District for the provision of such services. Upon the arrival of a jurisdictional officer in command, such volunteer firefighter shall report to such officer and offer his/her services to assist such fire company or fire department. If such offer of assistance is not accepted, then the volunteer firefighter of the Coldenham Fire District must immediately cease providing any additional service at the scene of the emergency.

The secretary polled the board: Commissioner Keenan – yes, Commissioner Grecco – yes, Commissioner Decker – yes and Commissioner Jacobowitz – yes. Unanimous approval (4 ayes, 0 nays) was received by those in attendance. Motion carried, resolution adopted.

**Capital Asset Policy:** Our auditor hit us last year for not having a capital asset policy. They have provided a copy of a suggested policy. Commissioner Besser feels that we should adopt the policy. Upon reading the suggested policy, it was agreed to wait until next meeting to have Commissioner Besser clarify the suggested policy. In the meantime, Treasurer Miller will talk to Donna from Vannacore get her interpretation of the suggested policy.

**Emergency Plumbing:** Commissioner Grecco spoke to Bill Young about compensating Chief Draiss for his emergency plumbing work he did for us when the pipes in the Firemen's Room burst. Mr. Young stated that it would be in order for him to get paid because it was an emergency.

**Front Motion Lights:** Commissioner Grecco had the light people come out and they said that it is an electrical issue and we should have an electrician look at them.

**Electric to sign and that side of building:** Commissioner Grecco would like to have the

Coldenham Fire District  
Board of Fire Commissioners  
April 13, 2015

electric box and electric on the South side of the building fixed. Commissioner Keenan said she will need to get quotes for the job.

**Cell Phone Usage:** Commissioner Grecco asked that the Chiefs not use their cell phones while in the meeting.

**Radio Room:** Commissioner Grecco advised the board that she will have the painter paint the radio room.

**Floors Waxed:** Commissioner Grecco would like to have the floors stripped and waxed. Commissioner Keenan said she should talk to the Chief and he can have the members do it with the machine.

**Chair Room:** Commissioner Grecco will contact our general maintenance man to get a price on finishing the chair room.

**Roof:** Commissioner Grecco will call Mr. Hollenbeck about our roof.

**Hall:** Commissioner Decker would like to thank Mike Keenan Sr. and everyone else who removed everything so the hall could be painted.

### **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 Laura Blaney from Active to Social
- Members suspended: 0
- Members resigned: 0

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

- Chief Draiss advised the board that the MCI drill will be this Sunday, April 19.
- Chief Draiss advised the board that the company will be attending an airport drill on May 2 for the Air National Guard.
- Chief Draiss has 1 person so far that would like to attend the Chief Show in Syracuse which is June 17 to the 20th. He also stated that he has 4 or 5 that would like to go to Harrisburg which runs from May 15 to the 17<sup>th</sup> and 2 that want to go to Baltimore in July. Rick Cameron stated that we need to register by mid June to take advantage of the early registration discount. Commissioner Keenan suggested that whoever is

Coldenham Fire District  
Board of Fire Commissioners  
April 13, 2015

on the Truck Committee, if they're available, should plan to attend the Harrisburg show.

- Chief Draiss would like permission to send Rev. Brian Randazzo for Fire Chaplain training to Montour Falls at a cost of \$300 from April 19 to the 22nd. He would also like permission for him to take the pick-up truck. A motion was made by Commissioner Grecco and seconded by Commissioner Jacobowitz to send Rev. Brian Randazzo to Montour Falls in the pick-up truck for Fire Chaplain's training from April 19 to the 22nd at a cost of \$300. Unanimous approval (4 ayes, 0 nays) was received by those in attendance. Motion carried.
- Chief Draiss would like to make some changes to the way our Fire Police respond. He would like to put a portable radio in the pick-up truck.
- Chief Draiss would like to buy more jackets for 207. He would like to get about 5 at a cost of about \$100 each. He needs to do a little more homework.
- Chief Draiss would like to replace the demo saws on the Rescue and Ladder. The best price is from Haight for \$1345. The rest go up to \$1900. A motion was made by Commissioner Decker and seconded by Commissioner Jacobowitz to purchase two demo saws at a cost of \$1345 each for a total of \$2690 plus shipping. Unanimous approval (4 ayes, 0 nays) was received by those in attendance.
- Chief Draiss advised the board that the Fire Company Bowling Team is going to the NY State Volunteer Fireman's Bowling Tournament on May 1 and 2 in Binghamton and would like to take one vehicle. A motion was made by Commissioner Grecco and seconded by Commissioner Keenan to allow one vehicle to be used to transport the Fire Company Bowling Team to Binghamton for a tournament. Unanimous approval (4 ayes, 0 nays) was received by those in attendance. Motion carried
- Chief Draiss informed the board that 9 people took the CPR class.
- Chief Draiss advised the board that our members had two saves this month. One life saving and one property saving. They did an excellent job with that.
- Chief Draiss would like to thank the board personally for the use of the hall with the loss of his Mom.
- Chief Draiss informed the board that 2 PW (pressurized water) fire extinguishers failed and two additional ones are needed. He would like to purchase 4 for \$90 each for a total of \$360. A motion was made by Commissioner Decker and seconded by Commissioner Jacobowitz to purchase the 4 fire extinguishers at a cost of \$360. Unanimous approval (4 ayes, 0 nays) was received by those in attendance. Motion carried.

### **Further Information from the Commissioners**

Commissioner Decker asked if any progress was made on the proposal from Commissioner Decker and Commissioner Jacobowitz. Chief Draiss stated that most of the Fire Police have turn out gear. He is meeting with the Fire Police tomorrow night and will talk to them then. Chief Draiss doesn't want them driving to the scene anymore. He wants them to come to the firehouse and take a truck. He feels that it is not safe. The roads are too dangerous. Commissioner Keenan stated that if Chief Draiss finds that any of the Fire Police need equipment, add it to the list of jackets and bring that back next month.

Coldenham Fire District  
Board of Fire Commissioners  
April 13, 2015

Commissioner Decker noticed that some people have individual gear. He would like members to get initial approval from the Chief for individual gear that they may want to use. He feels that once the Chief approves it, he should inform the Board so they can be made aware of it.

**Information from the Treasurer/Secretary**

Treasurer Miller submitted a tax abatement from the Town of Newburgh for Pilot in the amount of \$3934.10. She also reminded the board that we are still sitting on a tax abatement of \$11,000.

Treasurer Miller advised the board that we received \$89735.05 from PILOT. A motion was made by Commissioner Jacobowitz and seconded by Commissioner Decker to transfer the entire amount of PILOT money to the Chase Manhattan account. Unanimous approval (4 ayes, 0 nays) was received by those in attendance.

Treasurer Miller informed the board that the Treasurer/Secretary training that was scheduled at Cronomer Valley was cancelled without notice and our check was returned.

Treasurer Miller purchased a book of stamps to ensure the return of people's deposits at the district's expense.

Secretary Keenan stated that the Ladies room sink is still leaking. Commissioner Jacobowitz said it will be fixed by next month's meeting.

**Approved Expenditures**

Montour Falls Training & Lodging	\$ 300.00
Haight	2690.00 plus shipping
Fire Extinguishers	360.00

**Public Discussion**

Wanda Besser stated that the Ladies' Room bathroom has been leaking for over a year.

**Bills Signed**

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

**Executive Session**

Commissioner Grecco made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Decker to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel issues. Unanimous approval (4 ayes, 0 nays) was received by those in attendance. Motion carried.

Meeting reconvened at 9:40. There was no action taken at this time.

Coldenham Fire District  
Board of Fire Commissioners  
April 13, 2015

**Hot Water Heater:** There seems to be an issue with the hot water heater. Commissioner Jacobowitz will add it to the list.

**Adjournment**

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

Respectfully submitted,

Mary E. Keenan  
Secretary