

January 10, 2022

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners was opened at 7:35 PM by Chairman Donohue.

**PRESENT:** Commissioners Donohue, Kuethen, Gabrielsen, Theobalt, and Young  
Secretary Kelly Cassidy  
Chief Gonzales

**ABSENT:** District Manager Kris Tillis, Treasurer Donna Gruner, Chiefs Mills, Sapienza and Boyzok.

**GUESTS:** No guests.

- Pledge to the flag
- The minutes from the December 6, 2021 meeting were **APPROVED** on a motion by Commissioner Gabrielsen, Commissioner Young seconds, AIF (all in favor)

Department Aggregate report – Send reminder notice.

– Use of Facilities Requests:

Fraternal Order of Police-Station 1 Meeting Room Floor-1/27/22, 2/24/22, 3/24/22, 4/28/22, 5/26/22, 6/23/22, 7/28/22, 8/25/22, 9/22/22, 10/27/22, 11/17/22, 12/15/22  
Auxiliary Meetings-Station 2 Rec Room-1/13/22, 2/10/22, 3/10/22, 4/14/22, 5/12/22, 6/9/22  
100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee-Station 1-01/20/22-7:00-9:00  
Station 2-Juniors Meeting-01/20/22-7:30-9:30  
Station 1 Meeting Room Floor-Board of Directors Meeting-1/3/22, 1/31/22, 2/28/22, 3/7/22, 4/4/22, 5/2/22, 6/6/22, 7/5/22, 8/1/22, 9/6/22, 10/3/22, 10/31/22, 12/5/22

All facilities use **APPROVED** on a motion by Commissioner Gabrielsen, Commissioner Young seconds, AIF.

– FOIL Requests:

- State Farm-NFIR for 4 Evan Ct.-Emailed to Bill Glass-12/08/21-Response and NFIR sent 12/09/21

- Response and records to Riddle FOIL request emailed to Riddle-12/09/21-Letter from H Bergson regarding FF Riddle FOIL-emailed to Bill Glass & BOFC-12/15/21
- Request for records for fire in St James, Missouri. Emailed response-12/15/21
- LexisNexis-NFIR for 9 Clime Ct-mailed back-no record found-12/27/21
- Correspondence:
- Rosasco vs. St James Fire District-emailed BOFC-12/08/21
- County of Suffolk-Mask Guidance-emailed BOFC-12/13/21
- First Responder Leadership Series-emailed BOFC 12/13/21
- Copy of Letter from B Glass to H Bergson-emailed BOFC-12/14/21
- Welcome Letter Head of the Harbor Residents-emailed BOFC-12/14/21
- Fire-EMS Safety Officers Association of NYS-Donation for Terry Farrell Fund to Kentucky-emailed BOFC & Chiefs-12/20/21
- Angels of Long Island-emailed BOFC-12/21/21
- Suffolk County Volunteer Firemens Association Memorial Service-emailed to Chiefs-12/27/21
- Year End Report-Steve Mosca-emailed BOFC 01/10/22

Correspondence to be Acted on:

Head of the Harbor-16 Gate Rd-emailed BOFC-12/09/21

**CHIEF'S REPORT:**

**PAGE 1**

**#1** Three new members waiting on physicals

**#2** Request Staff command training for Chief Boyzok at a cost of \$1,975. **APPROVED** on a motion by Chairman Donohue, Commissioner Kuethen seconds, AIF.

**#3** Status of phones at Station 2 – in progress.

**#4** Lockers, MDTs someone coming tomorrow from Island Tech.

**#5** Computers almost unusable – asks for upgrade.

**#6** 2 members had questions on Cancer insurance coverage. Some discussion on coverage. Complete coverage, best plan is in place. A member is covered for 5 years forward.

Ruth Grayson resigned.

**TREASURERS REPORT:**

- **APPROVED** to **PAY BILLS** on a motion by Commissioner Young, Commissioner Kuethen seconds, AIF.
- EMS Supplies of \$2,575.24 **APPROVED** on a motion by Commissioner Kuethen, Commissioner Gabrielsen seconds, AIF

**COMMISSIONER KUETHEN:**

- MDTs- Island Tech
- Radios on order
- Signed agreement with Smithtown for frequency channel \$320 per month.

### **COMMISSIONER YOUNG:**

- Working on painting the gym.
- New ambulance is up and running just waiting on radios.
- Working with Jen to come up with an inventory program.

### **COMMISSIONER GABRIELSEN:**

- Cement lockers down. Contract plans and permits from Todd O'Connell architects are complete \$1,500 flat fee. Any further services necessary will be billed hourly. **APPROVED** on a motion by Commissioner Gabrielsen, Commissioner Theobalt seconds, AIF.
- District manager requests to use Halligan for ambulance inventory. \$1,000 upfront which includes 7 vehicles, \$150 per each piece of apparatus. **APPROVED** on a motion by Commissioner Gabrielsen, Commissioner Theobalt seconds, Commissioner Kuethen opposed. Motion carried.

### **COMMISSIONER DONOHUE:**

- Need to appoint a hearing officer for the Riddle FOIL appeal. Architectural drawings and details are complete from Thomas Amoia, P.E. for the Apron at station 2. **APPROVED** on a motion by Commissioner Donohue, Commissioner Gabrielsen seconds to spend \$7,000. AIF.
- Half face pieces were distributed to members.
- **APPROVED** on a motion by Commissioner Young, Commissioner Gabrielsen seconds to change the department policy that in order to run for third assistant chief the member must be an EMT. There was some discussion on this. Maybe have them complete the EMT class within a year of becoming chief?
- Promethean boards have been ordered. One for the substation and one for main station. No delivery date yet.

## **RESOLUTION DESIGNATING A HEARING OFFICER PURSUANT TO §209(L) OF THE GENERAL MUNICIPAL LAW JANUARY 10, 2022**

WHEREAS, the Chief of the St. James Fire Department has caused Michael Riddle to be suspended for disciplinary reasons, and

WHEREAS, the Board of Fire Commissioners did, at its meeting on November 8, 2022, vote to terminate Mr. Riddle's membership in the St. James Fire Department, subject to his right to formal charges and an evidentiary hearing, and

WHEREAS, Mr. Riddle has made a demand for a Statement of Charges and Specifications and for a formal hearing thereon as provided for by § 209-l of the General Municipal Law of the State of New York, and

WHEREAS, the Board of Fire Commissioners has determined that it is the best interest of the Fire District that a Hearing Officer be appointed to conduct the disciplinary hearing referred to above, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that Sean P. Callahan, an attorney with experience with the volunteer fire service, with offices at 150 Nature's Lane, Miller Place NY 11764, is hereby appointed as Hearing Officer with respect to such hearing and given all the power and responsibility of a Hearing Officer as is set forth in § 209-1 of the General Municipal Law.

Motion made by Commissioner Donohue.

Seconded by Commissioner Theobalt.

Voting For the Resolution: All in favor

Voting Against the Resolution: \_\_\_\_\_

Motion: Carried

Regarding the FOIL appeal filed by Michael Riddle we, the Board of Fire Commissioners, determine that Mr. Riddle be provided with all documents responsive to his outstanding FOIL request with the provision that the names of all the witnesses be redacted. The Fire District Secretary is directed to carry out this decision.

**COMMISSIONER THEOBALT:**

Report given in executive session

**Executive Session:**

**APPROVED** on a motion by Commissioner Donohue, Commissioner Gabrielsen seconds, AIF, the meeting went into executive session at 8:15 PM to discuss paid personnel. Out of Executive session at 9:05PM on a motion by Commissioner Theobalt, Commissioner Gabrielsen seconds, AIF.

Motion to NTE \$1,000 members to attend Fire/EMS Expo at Nassau Coliseum 2/11-2/13/22.

**Policies:** Disciplinary Action & FF Classification policies from Bill Glass.

**APPROVED** on a motion by Commissioner Theobalt seconded by Commissioner Gabrielsen, AIF, the meeting was adjourned at 9:20PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly Cassidy  
District Secretary