Port Ewen Fire Commissioners Meeting

Date: April 7th, 2026 Location: Port Ewen Fire Department Headquarters

Roll Call (X = Present)

_X_ 5yr David Brechter
_X_ 4yr Jack Spinnenweber II
_X_ 3yr Michelle Spinnenweber
_X_ 2yr Scott Sammons
_X_ 1yr Roger Boughton
_X_ Sec'y Mike Dauner
_X_ Treas. Wendy Trojak

_X_ Chief Clark R. Mains
_X_ Asst. Mike Lange
_X_ Asst. Joseph Mains
_X_ Asst. Thomas Mains

Pledge to the Flag

Meeting was called to order by: Commissioner J. Spinnenweber II at 19:00 hours.

Minutes: Additions/Corrections to the previous month's meeting(s): None. Motion to accept minutes was made by Commissioner D. Brechter 2nd by Commissioner Sammons. Discussion: Commissioner M. Spinnenweber noted objection to page three #3 where that Commissioner R. Boughton made remarks about not being in favor of a policy. Commissioner M. Spinnenweber stated that this should not be allowed in the minutes. Secretary Dauner stated that it was a matter of public record as it was a discussion that Chief Mains raised in public meeting and no votes were made on the matter. Secretary Dauner stated it was no different than having a conversation with an attorney or vendor and part of the public record, he was not going to change his minutes on the matter. Vote: 4ok motion carried on accepting minutes presented.

Commissioner Boughton joined the meeting at this time.

Treasurer's Report – Treasurer report read by Treasurer Trojak. Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report was made by Commissioner Brechter, 2nd Commissioner Sammons . 5ok motion carried.

- Treasurer noted that the voucher list was unavailable as the free printer the district received is not working. She will prepare and forward to the board.
- Treasurer Trojak spoke with accountant regarding the Annual Financial Report inquiring when it will be completed. The accountant stated the district should have a draft copy next week. Treasurer Trojak advised that the extension has been filed for an additional 60 days past the original deadline however the concern was that the state found this to be an issue with their audit so not completing timely looks bad. Treasurer Trojak stated that the accountant stated that they will get to it as soon as they can and Commissioner Sammons stated that the district should look into another firm if they are too busy for us. It was mentioned there are not many firms out there taking on fire districts and others are very expensive.
- Commissioner J. Spinnenweber II is working on getting late fee with NAPA waived.

- Commissioner M. Spinnenweber is handling Jeff Lowe invoice for maintenance agreement.
- Starlink invoices have been paid, the voucher had to be changed as there was an ACH processing charge. There is a monthly charge to be reimbursed to Commissioner J. Spinnenweber II for Starlink service. When he sets up his district credit card this will be paid moving forward through that account.
- Deposits were made in amount of $167.68 for Frank Banks payment on salter and insurance census reimbursement. A check was also received in amount of $1,990.00 for insurance reimbursement on 2017 Dodge Ram repair.
- Would like the board to address purchasing a printer under new business as the free printer that points on credit card purchased is not a suitable printer.
- Treasurer Trojak is working diligently to catch things as they occur whether late payments overcharge that may not have been caught before.
- Commissioner M. Spinnenweber addressed the Lowe Plumbing bill and stated that the bill in question is the actual service that was completed not a service contract. She will speak with Lowe to ensure that it is not a duplicate bill and then will report back.

District Vouchers were presented and were audited by the Commissioners in attendance.

Correspondence/Communications:

Secretary Dauner:

1. Two new member applications requesting appointment were received from department and will be addressed under new business.
2. Annual service agreements for station generators were received and will be addressed under new business.
3. James Publishing offer for Fire District Officers' Guide.
4. LENS program report on members who drive has been received and everyone is current.
5. Marshall & Sterling provided their annual insurance disclosure statement.

Commissioner J. Spinnenweber II:

1. Received copy of FB's Property lawn care contract.

Commissioner M. Spinnenweber:

1. Received copy of Kingston Fire Equipment Liability Insurance.
2. Received quotes from Darmstadt Doors for repair work at Sta #2.

Unfinished Business:

Commissioner J. Spinnenweber II:

1. Addressed repair work for 48-12 from damage. Commissioner M. Spinnenweber stated that Troy's AutoBody will match insurance estimate and district will have to pay deductible of $500 possibly if it is not matched. **A motion was made by Commissioner Brechter, 2nd Commissioner M. Spinnenweber authorizing expenditure of $500 to deductible on 48-12 repair if necessary. Vote: Commissioners' J. Spinnenweber II, Sammons, Brechter, M. Spinnenweber – Yes. Commissioner Boughton – No. Motion passed.** Commissioner Boughton stated he would like to see utility body placed on truck and get rid of Heavy Rescue.
2. Addressed damaged gutter on Headquarters – Commissioner Sammons stated they were fixed last week.
3. Addressed Starlink – work has been completed. Routers are going to be addressed and wiring in cameras.

Commissioner Sammons:

1. Working with Assemblymember Shrestha's office on finalizing the $40,000 grant for compressor. He will be meeting with members of her office tomorrow.

Commissioner M. Spinnenweber:

1. Advised that M& T bank has a 3.2% interest rate on 6mos. CD's. Treasurer Trojak said she would like to investigate NYClass and they may be able to help the district. It was mentioned that the district previously had M&T as the district's bank and there were issues, however maybe that knowledge could be taken to Bank of Greene County to get them to offer better rates knowing the district is looking at other options.
2. Exhaust system is installed and four trucks are hooked to it. Parts are waiting to be delivered on the final two trucks to hook them up as well. There is a seven-year plus three-year warranty on the system. No one should try fixing or maintaining the system on their own as it will violate the warranty. If anything needs repair, please notify Commissioner M. Spinnenweber and she will reach out to the company. She has their liability insurance and W-9's as well.

New Business:

Secretary Dauner:

1. Presented board with applications for appointment of Dominic Nichols as a probationary firefighter and Tanner Boughton as a probationary firefighter with age restrictions. After review **a motion was made by Commissioner Brechter, 2nd Commissioner Sammons, to appoint Dominic Nichols as a probationary firefighter and Tanner Boughton as a probationary firefighter with age restrictions. 5ok motion carried.**
2. **A motion was made by Commissioner Brechter, 2nd Commissioner Sammons to approve 2026 GenPlus service contracts for Sta #1 & #2 generators. 5ok motion carried.**
3. **A motion was made by Commissioner M. Spinnenweber, 2nd Commissioner Brechter authorizing purchase of (1) Fire Districts Officer Guide manual for $197.00. 5ok motion carried.**

Treasurer Trojak:

1. Addressed the issue of the free printer purchased through credit card points not working. Discussion followed on purchasing a laser jet printer as it will save cost on ink in long run. After discussion, **a motion was made by Commissioner M. Spinnenweber, 2nd Commissioner Boughton, to donate free printer to department. 5ok motion carried. A motion was made by Commissioner J. Spinnenweber II, 2nd Commissioner Sammons to authorize purchase of one laser jet printer at an expense of up to $600.00. 5ok motion carried.**

Commissioner J. Spinnenweber II:

1. Inquired on status of grants – Commissioner Sammons stated he was working on the Shrestha grant before he moved to the next one. Commissioner J. Spinnenweber II asked if Commissioner M. Spinnenweber had a status on radio grant and she advised no action has been taken as she was told to hold off on it. Commissioner Sammons asked for clarification on who was handling grants as there had been some confusion. After discussion, Commissioner J. Spinnenweber stated both Commissioners' Sammons and M. Spinnenweber were to handle grants together.
2. Addressed the need to cancel Verizon DSL for Station #1 now that Starlink is set up. He stated that Spectrum internet needed to be cancelled at Headquarters as well once the camera system was hooked up to the Starlink system. A motion was made by Commissioner M. Spinnenweber, 2nd Commissioner Brechter to discontinue Verizon DSL at Sta #1 and Spectrum internet at Headquarters. After discussion due to issues with the new Starlink system motion was rescinded until Starlink issues could be investigated.
3. **A motion was made by Commissioner Boughton, 2nd Commissioner to accept 2026 FB Property & Facility Maintenance Lawn Care contract with an extension for 2027. 5ok motion carried.**
4. Commissioner J. Spinnenweber II addressed the need to set up a credit card for him as Chairman of Board as authorized in the credit card policy. This was necessary so that monthly payments for Starlink could be made as well as other necessary expenditures. A motion was made by Commissioner Brechter, 2nd Commissioner Sammons authorizing Chairman / Commissioner Jack Spinnenweber II to be issued a credit card with Bank of Greene County on behalf of the fire district. 5ok motion carried.

Commissioner M. Spinnenweber:

1. Inquired what line-item petty cash is to be taken out of. Treasurer Trojak stated typically it was to be taken out of rehab expenses as Petty Cash is typically used every two years before it is replenished. It was discussed the potential of setting up a Petty Cash line item or Chief's budget. Discussion followed and more to follow on matter.
2. Commissioner M. Spinnenweber asked that personnel be mindful of the Kingston exit on the Thruway when using E-ZPass as the sensors do not always notice the truck. Currently the district does not have an E-ZPass however an account can be set up. Commissioner M. Spinnenweber will investigate setting up an account.
3. Darmstadt repaired weatherstripping on Engine 1 bay door at Sta #2 and Commissioner M. Spinnenweber has a bill for repair. An estimate of repair for replacing the first panel on Engine 1 bay door as it was rotted was received in amount of $2,384.00. Rescue #2 door's opener needs to be replaced as the motor is bad. The cost to replace is $4,945.00.

After discussion it was addressed that due to the amount of repair work three quotes would need to be obtained. Commissioner M. Spinnenweber will research and revisit.

4. The Firehouse Committee met and recommended investigating retaining a construction attorney for the firehouse project. The committee anticipates making a recommendation at the next commissioner meeting. Discussion followed on the matter.
5. Commissioner M. Spinnenweber inquired who chartered the Ladies Auxiliary and it was mentioned that the fire district did.

Commissioner Boughton:

1. Addressed email sent out regarding two chief vehicles currently for sale by Plattekill Fire Department for $55,000.00. Discussion followed. Chief Mains stated that there have been missed opportunities in the past for purchasing used Chief vehicles as they are available. Discussion followed on several vehicles available for sale and the merits of used vs. new. Assistant Chief Lange stated that the vehicles in Plattekill are fully outfitted with command boxes and lights, etc. and he stated one is 2019 and one is 2020. Assistant Chief Lange will forward contact information so the board can investigate before making a decision. Commissioners' Brechter, Boughton, and Sammons would like to investigate and Commissioner M. Spinnenweber stated she would like to see budgeted.

Permission for Headquarters Hall Usage:

- Ladies Auxiliary would like the Headquarters Hall on May 15th – 17th for a Penny Social. **A motion was made by Commissioner Boughton, 2nd Commissioner Brechter authorizing Ladies Auxiliary to use Headquarters Hall May 15th – 17th. Commissioners' J. Spinnenweber II, M. Spinnenweber, Boughton, Brechter – Yes. Commissioner Sammons – No. Vote Passed.** Commissioner Sammons stated he is opposed due to past issues with parking for events which is required to be addressed under hall rental events.
- Monday June 8th and Sunday September 13th Ladies Auxiliary would like to use the Annex for Fried Dough. Commissioner Sammons stated he was opposed as to the condition the annex has been left after past use for fried dough sales. Due to conflicts with department events the Ladies Auxiliary will be asked to readdress dates and report back to the fire district before a decision is made.
- September 17th U.C. Fire Districts and Chiefs to hold monthly meeting at Headquarters – board had no objections to date. Board will revisit funding refreshments at a later date.

Chief's Report:

1. Addressed Gear Policy, he would like to change acknowledgement that the member be liable for any negligent responsibility. Commissioner M. Spinnenweber stated she would like it to state that the member will return all equipment on request immediately or the district will seek its return through enforcement by the Sheriff's Department.
2. Chief also asked the board to address that gear and equipment would not leave the firehouse without Chief approval and would like it addressed that no gear and equipment would be used for non firematic function without the prior approval of the Chief or his designee.

3. Chief asked board to investigate the Chief vehicles currently for sale or discuss budget for vehicles however in meantime the board should consider revisiting, giving the Assistant Chiefs' the federal milage rate instead of the fuel stipend. Commissioner Sammons stated he would be willing to raise the fuel stipend, but he did not want to go back to giving mileage rate. Discussion followed and it was stated WEX cards were working with fuel stipend. Assistant Chief J. Mains addressed that chiefs' vehicles are on scene running for extended periods of time. If fuel drops it can be revisited and Commissioner Sammons stated he wanted higher from the start and he would motion to raise the monthly fuel stipend for Assistant Chiefs to $150 per month. A motion was made by Commissioner Sammons, 2nd Commissioner Boughton to raise the monthly fuel stipend for Assistant Chiefs to $150.00. 5ok motion Carried. Commissioner M. Spinnenweber stated she would have raised at $100 and stated crybabies at which time the floor and board addressed the matter for admonishment and Commissioner M. Spinnenweber apologized and the chair moved to close the matter.
4. The department has been asked to provide standby coverage for Plattekill Fire Department for their 125th Celebration August 29th. **A motion was made by Commissioner Boughton, 2nd Commissioner Brechter authorizing an apparatus to provide standby coverage for Plattekill Fire Department's 125th Celebration August 29th. 5ok motion carried.**
5. Requested board to purchase two new sets of gear lockers like ones recently purchased in amount of $2,627.36 ea. There are nine personnel requesting lockers so they will be put to immediate use. Discussion followed on what line item the purchase could be made from and whether it was in the budget. Secretary mentioned that the lockers could be purchased through the equipment reserve line if monies were not in the current budget. After further discussion, **the following motion was made by Commissioner Sammons, 2nd Commissioner Boughton**

RESOLUTION TO USE FUNDS IN THE PORT EWEN FIRE DISTRICT FUND KNOWN AS FIRE EQUIPMENT RESERVE FUND

The Port Ewen Fire District ("Fire District") duly convened in regular session does hereby resolve as follows:

WHEREAS, the Fire District has established a Reserve Fund for the purchase of capital equipment; and

WHEREAS, there is in said Reserve Fund the sum of $33,658.69; and

WHEREAS, the District is interested in purchasing new firefighter equipment gear racks, specifically (2) Firefighter Equipment Gear Racks; and

WHEREAS, there is need for the firefighter equipment gear racks to ensure the proper storage of firefighter turnout gear and equipment; and

WHEREAS, the estimated cost of the new fire equipment gear racks is approximately $5,254.72; thereby it is hereby

RESOLVED that the Port Ewen Fire District is hereby authorized to use such Reserve Fund for the purchase of firefighter equipment gear racks; subject to a permissive referendum.
5ok motion carried.

From the Floor:

Joe Mains:

1. Inquired of the board whether there was any progress on the purchase of tablets for the apparatus. The board stated that they were waiting on a quote from Mike Parr to purchase and Commissioner J. Spinnenweber II would follow up on the matter.
2. Inquired whether the board would consider purchasing hose reels for use in the fire stations. After discussion, the board asked that quotes be obtained and brought to the board next month.
3. Inquired whether grants were investigated for the exhaust system recently installed. The board advised that the AFG grant through FEMA was applied for the exhaust system, however, was denied. There were no other grants available and other grants in process were reviewed.
4. Addressed AEDs received recently for apparatus. He felt that medical equipment should be looked into for Chiefs' vehicles including AED's at least the Chief vehicle to start. Discussion followed on the matter. It was addressed that a medical director should be involved if AEDs are used by the district.
5. Assistant Chief J. Mains feels it is extremely discouraging that the board as elected officials cannot handle criticism on matters addressed or equipment requests and it is extremely unprofessional.

Mike Lange:

1. Asked board to consider funding refreshments for UC Chief and Commissioner Meeting , board said will be addressed at a later date.

Frank Banks:

1. Asked about obtaining permission to clean up firehouse property by town hall and remove bushes and fix lawn. **A motion was made by Commissioner Boughton, 2nd Commissioner Sammons authorizing Frank Banks to clean up firehouse property near town hall and repair lawn and remove bushes. 5ok motion carried.**
2. Inquired about cleaning up around monument located at Headquarters. Commissioner J. Spinnenweber II will look into matter and report back next month.

A.E. Stokes:

1. Addressed need to smooth out headquarters parking lot. Commissioner Sammons stated Frank Banks smoothed out what was there, however more material was needed. It was addressed that the matter should be looked into before adding more fill.

Commissioner M. Spinnenweber addressed correspondence sent to board by Steve Cerini. Several concerns are department issues not district. She stated uniforms have a sign-up sheet and that policies are updated and the Secretary distributes, as necessary.

Motion to adjourn made at 20:47 by Commissioner Boughton, 2nd by Commissioner Brechter. 5ok Motion Carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mike Dauner
District Secretary