

Port Ewen Fire Commissioners Meeting

Date: May 5th, 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

Moment of silence for departed past Fire Department member Ed Sammons.

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. 5ok motion carried.

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

- Adobe & LaMela Sanitation bills went up in price and reviewed with commissioners.
- SPEDES permit from DEC for the new firehouse site was renewed and invoice was \$1,174.50.
- Troy's Auto Body invoice was received and paid from insurance reimbursement received.
- The Annual Financial Report was completed and submitted on 4/22/2026 by the accountant. It was due by end of March however an extension was approved by the state and was submitted before the extension deadline.
- WEX cards limits were increased to \$2,400.00 due to increase in gas prices. There was an overage on the gas used by a couple Assistant Chiefs as the increase in allowance recently occurred and WEX is not month to month but a billing cycle.
- Jeff Lowe bill still needs to be addressed by commissioners.
- Treasurer is working on information for a FOIL request with the Secretary.
- Treasurer Trojak addressed Chief Petty Cash and recommended that moving forward at the December meeting every year, the Treasurer will request from the Chief his receipts for petty cash to date and then submit the voucher for payment. She will then issue the Chief petty cash to the Chief to bring him to the \$100 total. This will allow the books to

be closed at end of year without receipts going over into the next year. The board agreed to begin this practice effective immediately.

- Treasurer Trojak addressed a finding of the accountant in that the district spent \$5,932.11 over the approved permissive referendum amount for the new Sutphen Engine. This was due to the fact that upfits on the truck had increased the cost by that amount and when paid from the reserve fund this was not identified at the time. The Treasurer stated that the overage will need to be reimbursed to the reserve fund from the general fund.
- New laser jet printer was received and put in service and free printer will be given to department as approved.
- Addressed NYClass meeting with the board. Commissioner Brechter expressed interest in an in-person meeting and Treasurer Trojak stated she will schedule the meeting for Tuesday July 7th.

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

Correspondence/Communications:

Secretary Dauner:

1. Two FOIL requests were received; one was completed and other is in progress.
2. Legal posting is on file for permissive referendum for gear locker purchase.
3. Roehrs Construction liability insurance has been received.
4. Central Hudson advised that they will be completing gas main and service installation on Legion Court in near future.
5. Fire Law book advertisement provided to Commissioners.
6. AFDSNY Newsletter left for commissioners.
7. Received David Brechter's commissioner training.

Commissioner M. Spinnenweber:

1. Received copy of liability insurance for State Line Fire and Summit Fire.
2. Suggested Secretary be able to get on a yearly subscription for the Fire District Law Book recently purchased to save money. **A motion was made by Commissioner M. Spinnenweber, 2nd Commissioner Sammons authorizing yearly subscription through James Publishing for (1) NYS Fire District Law book. 50k motion carried.**
3. Letter was sent to EZ Pass to address refund of charges to district.
4. Inquired if credit was received from Central Hudson, Treasurer stated no it had not. Commissioner M. Spinnenweber will follow up on the matter.

Unfinished Business:

Commissioner Sammons:

1. Gave an update on grant with Assemblymember Shrestha's office on finalizing the \$40,000 grant for compressor. He stated they will not change the name from department to district. Discussion followed on looping in accountant to see if grant can be accepted as is or through department, more to follow.
2. Commissioner Sammons addressed the current agenda. He did not feel the board needed to continue the current form of agenda, the order of business does not change and most

board members do not add to the agenda when requested. He asked to consider going back to a generic agenda which is ok by the attorney. **A motion was made by Commissioner Sammons, 2nd Commissioner Brechter to revert to an outline agenda for meetings. 5ok motion carried.**

Commissioner M. Spinnenweber:

1. \$867.00 bill from Jeff Lowe Plumbing is a maintenance contract for three A/C units at Headquarters. They will now do a cleaning however they will not combine all units together in a contract. She said it is a lot of money to spend on the units and recommended going out to bid for service on A/C's and heaters. Commissioner Sammons stated he was in favor of going to bid however he recommended that Lowe continue servicing boilers at Headquarters as they are extremely old and Lowe has been servicing and know them well. Commissioner M. Spinnenweber and J. Spinnenweber II would like to write a bid with exception of Headquarters heaters – more to follow.
2. Updated board on garage doors at Station #2. She stated Hudson Valley is not interested in the work. For Rescue 2 bay door to replace motor Darmstadt Overhead Door quoted \$4,945.00 and Dutchess Overhead Door quoted \$3,100.00. For a new bottom panel for Engine 1 bay door Darmstadt Overhead Door quoted \$2,384.00 and Dutchess Overhead Door quoted \$1,543.00. Discussion followed. **A motion was made by Commissioner M. Spinnenweber, 2nd Commissioner Sammons to approve Dutchess Overhead Door to replace motor on Rescue 2 bay door in amount of \$3,100.00. 5ok motion carried. A motion was made by Commissioner M. Spinnenweber, 2nd Commissioner Sammons to approve Darmstadt Overhead Door to repair Engine 1 bay door in amount of \$2,384.00. 5ok motion carried.**
3. Commissioner M. Spinnenweber made a correction on the warranty on the exhaust system which is seven years for material and the labor is five year warranty. All truck exhaust is now working. They will be coming to fix Station 1 flange on the outside of the building.
4. Addressed WEX cards – with approval last month of \$150 per month for each Assistant Chief brings the fuel line over budget for the year. Commissioner M. Spinnenweber inquired where this money would come from? Treasurer Trojak reviewed line items and approx. \$3,000.00 is left in the fuel line, she advised she will revisit next month with a recommendation of where to do a line-item transfer from.
5. Commissioner M. Spinnenweber purchased a EZ-Pass for the district and the purchase was billed through her credit card for \$75.00. After discussion amongst the board, the Secretary agreed to secure the EZ-Pass account with his district credit card provided he could access account to review as needed. **A motion was made by Commissioner Sammons, 2nd Commissioner Boughton to reimburse Commissioner M. Spinnenweber for \$75.00 expense to set up district EZ-Pass account and moving forward secure account with District Secretary credit card. 5ok motion carried.** Commissioner M. Spinnenweber will work with Secretary to update account.
6. Commissioner M. Spinnenweber addressed \$6.5 million bond for firehouse construction and the current status as money has not been spent. The bond counsel stated that the money needed to be expended by February 2025 and if not could potentially be taxed. Her concerns were where the district would get that money and the need to start working to get this firehouse built. She felt the district should hold expenses on other things until

this matter could be addressed. Commissioner J. Spinnenweber inquired whether the firehouse committee has done anymore work and Chief Mains stated do not look at the committee to address, the committee made recommendations all along and were supposed to come to the district tonight with a lawyer recommendation for the project but because people do not want the lawyer we have they have no lawyer. He stated there is nothing wrong with keeping the district's current attorney to do the work. Secretary Dauner stated that the district is paying for both the district's attorney Hannigan Law and the Bond Counsel Orrick to do the work and they are. Hannigan has been giving counsel all along and it has been transparent to the board; he has stated that it was not necessarily the district's fault the additional money was voted down and as long as commissioners are working in good faith to forward the project this should be considered. Secretary Dauner recommended that the district meet either in person or by teleconference with both the district's attorney and bond counsel to discuss the matter. He further gave the history of the project relating to how the district came to the point of requesting and approving the \$6.5 million bond as well as how the project delays led to the increase in prices for the project. He stated that all these matters are in the minutes as well as planning board minutes and communications. He offered to provide if anyone wanted to see. At the time \$6.5 million was requested and approved by the voters, Delaware Engineering had presented this as a cost estimate of the project off other similar projects and had reviewed with other firms. He stated the district could not go to the design and bid phase until it had money on hand so that is why they had to have the vote first and then with project delays it was found to be more expensive once the project was bid. Commissioner Spinnenweber inquired why Delaware Engineering did not try to redesign the project and the Secretary advised they did and had begun preliminary design work including seeking the grant through Senator Hinchey's office for that fact however, Delaware Engineering was advised not to proceed with a redesign by the board of fire commissioners when the new board was elected after the failed firehouse vote. He continued to discuss the project and its history. Commissioner M. Spinnenweber stated that attorneys she is discussing the project with have asked about the RFP and referendum for the original project and she needs to get them answers. Commissioners Sammons and Brechter stated those questions can be answered by the Secretary or documents obtained. The Secretary offered to provide whatever assistance is need. Commissioner Sammons also offered to send the board the original referendum, so they know the wording as it related to what was approved. Commissioner Sammons reiterated that several committee members were looking into attorney options to move forward – the committee is meeting and is actively working. Commissioner M. Spinnenweber stated that the commissioners of the district and members of the department should be working together on the firehouse project. She asked why the members of the department would not have a drill or work party to clean up the vacant property. Secretary Dauner stated that previous insurance representatives would not allow firefighters to do that type of work and Commissioner M. Spinnenweber stated she had received approval from the district's insurance company allowing tree work by the membership. It was mentioned that the insurance company changes their opinion several times on the matter, and it was mentioned that first the department should be asked first. She stated her husband moved a tree that was down and since it had not been picked up, she did not understand why no one said thank you or went up and chopped it down.

Chief Mains stated that they do plowing and the district doesn't want the members to plow but now they want the members to cut trees. He has offered in past and was told not to by the board. Commissioner M. Spinnenweber asked that the property be cleaned up, discussion followed. The board asked the Chief to talk with the Training Officer and department membership. Commissioner Sammons reiterated that the insurance company in fact in the past told the district they could not have membership do the work. Secretary Dauner stated he was speaking only for himself, however over the years he has felt the membership has been trashed over the firehouse project and why would someone want to take on the work without a path forward. He, along with many others, has done work over the years on the firehouses and projects etc. to save money. Several years ago, the membership fought to cut down trees and were told no by the insurance company only to have to go out and spend money through contractors. Commissioner M. Spinnenweber stated the membership should invest in cleaning up the property to show the public they care and that the public may then give more money if asked. Chief Mains stated that it should be left as vacant land until the district can figure out what to do. He stated there are buildings in the town that have a bigger issue than that land. Secretary Dauner stated that if there is a path moving forward and the board makes moves to make the project go forward, he would commit to work and maybe the membership would too. Chief Mains stated that there was plenty of free fill offered, however the board did not want it.

Commissioner Boughton:

1. Inquired about the status of investigating the chiefs' vehicles for sale by Plattekill Fire Department. Commissioner J. Spinnenweber II looked at vehicles with district mechanic Mike Fitzgerald and provided the board with estimates to put in service. Plattekill offered to sell two vehicles for \$55,000.00 and to put in service \$75,000.00. It was addressed that a Kenwood cable could not support a Motorola radio and there were no radios supplied with vehicles. Mike Fitzgerald said both vehicles were in good shape with no issues. Discussion followed and Commissioner Boughton supported their purchase and suggested offering \$50,000.00. Mileage of vehicles were 70,485 and 86,100 respectively. A motion was made by Commissioner Boughton to purchase two chief vehicles from Plattekill Fire Department for \$55,000.00. No second motion failed. Commissioner J. Spinnenweber II felt that an Assistant Chief vehicle should be put into the budget for next year. Chief Mains stated he felt the district should purchase these two vehicles now and put a new one in budget for next year. He asked whether anyone asked Bill McNamara about the radios – no Commissioner Spinnenweber II had not. Bill McNamara stated there is no difference between Kenwood and Motorola radios and if anyone says that wires need to be replaced, they are lying. There is no reason that radios should be expensive and should not sway the purchase of a vehicle. Any vehicle can be upfitted for \$600 or so with two radios. The motion was still defeated with no 2nd. Chief Mains inquired whether other than Commissioner Boughton were there any other Commissioners who are in favor of getting Chief vehicles other than the current one. Commissioner J. Spinnenweber II stated yes, he would like to have it in the budget and Commissioner Brechter stated he is open to it however a lot of things need to be considered monetarily. Chief Mains stated the money could be used from the apparatus reserve to purchase. Commissioner M. Spinnenweber stated she would like to see the

firehouse project start before new vehicles are purchased and Commissioner Sammons agreed with her and stated it was the perception of the public and if residents see the department driving around with new vehicles without the firehouse being built. Chief Mains stated that he felt the public does not care and only want to know that the department will show up when there is a call. The town does not care about the fire department like they used to and Commissioner Sammons agreed. Commissioner Boughton stated there is never a good time and when the board procrastinates this is why nothing is done.

Commissioner J. Spinnenweber II:

1. Quote from Frank Banks was received to install a hose reel in each firehouse for \$2,995.00. After discussion no action was taken.

Commissioner M. Spinnenweber inquired regarding Assistant Chief Lange receiving a mileage reimbursement for going to his class as the pickup truck was not available. Commissioner J. Spinnenweber II had authorized it as the truck was unavailable.

New Business:

Secretary Dauner:

1. Secretary ordered a new sign for the district sign box on Sta #1.

Chief's Report:

1. Commissioners have paid for the membership to attend defensive driving in the past and the current certifications are expiring, he asked if the board would approve again. **A motion was made by Commissioner Boughton, 2nd Commissioner Brechter authorizing members to be reimbursed for taking the defensive driving class provided it is completed by August 1st and a voucher along with proof of attendance is submitted. 5ok motion carried.**
2. **A motion was made by Commissioner Boughton, 2nd Commissioner Brechter authorizing Engine 1 and Chief's vehicle to attend Hudson Valley parade in Lake George. 5ok motion carried.** Commissioner Sammons said, if possible, he would like to have pickup and Sanford attend however more to follow on that.

48-12 repair and lettering were addressed. Lettering will be held off until truck can return to Troy's to address paint color.

From the Floor:

Steve Cerini:

1. Inquired whether the amount that needs to be returned to the apparatus reserve fund to offset Engine 1 payment will affect the general fund. Treasurer Trojak said yes that money would need to be taken from this year's general fund.
2. He inquired whether Darmstadt could have been asked to match Dutchess Overhead doors quote. It was stated that it was not in the best interest to manipulate quotes and that quotes should be independently obtained.

Jan Miller :

1. Inquired on hall rental request – board said will be addressed at hall usage.

Joe Mains:

1. Inquired whether the board will act on the quote for tablets for the apparatus. Commissioner J. Spinnenweber II stated he is still working on obtaining install quote from Mike Parr. He will ask Commissioner M. Spinnenweber to obtain a quote from River Valley Radio. Assistant Chief Mains stated he and other Chiefs are bringing things to the board they want and the Chiefs are looking foolish when the board drags things out for months. He said it ruins the repore they have with vendors on a personal and professional level.
2. It was addressed about doing work at the firehouse property. He stated that he is assisting the training officer with training and they will not go up on a Wednesday night to do work on the property. There is an influx of new members, and those nights are for training on firematics and they are training members to be firefighters not landscapers. He does not mind going and doing that work but he wants to see board members there as it is their responsibility just as much as the departments.

Permission for Headquarters Hall Usage:

- Ladies Auxiliary would like the annex for Fried Dough sale on June 6th and September 20th as well as the Headquarters Hall on October 9th – 11th for a Penny Social. **A motion was made by Commissioner Boughton, 2nd Commissioner Brechter authorizing Ladies Auxiliary to use the annex on June 6th and September 20th for Fried Dough Sale and to use Headquarters Hall October 9th thru 11th for a Penny Social. Vote: Commissioners' J. Spinnenweber II, M. Spinnenweber, Boughton, Brechter – Yes. Commissioner Sammons – No. Motion passed. June 9th 3-8pm for Hibernian Ladies. A motion was made by Commissioner Brechter, 2nd Commissioner Sammons authorizing Jan Miller to use Headquarters Hall Tuesday June 9th, 3-8pm for the Hibernian Ladies. 5ok motion carried.**

Commissioner Sammons would like to use the trailer at the end of the month and asked if the tables and plow could be moved. Chief Mains will address it at the department meeting.

Motion to adjourn made at 20:50 by Commissioner Boughton, 2nd by Commissioner Brechter. 5ok Motion Carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mike Dauner
District Secretary