Port Ewen Fire Commissioners Meeting

Date: June 2nd, 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
___ 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 Boughton. 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.

- Exhaust system bill and LOSAP 2026 payment are included in vouchers as well as the half year payment for Treasurer, Secretary, and LOSAP Administrator.
- NYCLASS presentation will be at the July meeting.
- Secretary took care of the NAPA late fee; it has been removed from the account.
- Treasurer and Secretary payroll checks will only have one signature as they cannot sign their own checks.
- Treasurer requested that vouchers, etc. be emailed or in the district bill box by Friday before the meeting or they will not be presented at that meeting.

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

Correspondence/Communications:

Secretary Dauner:

1. Three applicants for appointments which were previously approved by the department.
2. Summit Fire sent a quote for repairs to fire system at Sta#2 which will be brought up under new business.
3. Sutphen sent annual aerial service contract for ladder, and it was completed and sent back out. Sutphen will contact Chief to schedule work.
4. Chief submitted letter to Planning Board regarding proposal for 441 Broadway.

Unfinished Business:

Commissioner Sammons:

1. Gave an update on grant with Assemblymember Shrestha's office on finalizing the $40,000 grant for compressor. More to follow.

Commissioner M. Spinnenweber:

1. LaMana gave a estimate of $250 to install vinyl lettering on 48-12 and money will be reimbursed by the insurance company. **A motion was made by Commissioner Sammons, 2nd Commissioner M. Spinnenweber to approve estimate of $250 from LaMana Printing to install vinyl lettering on 48-12 and be reimbursed by the district's insurance company. 5ok motion carried.**
2. Discussed laptops for apparatus. Commissioner M. Spinnenweber received estimate from Mike Parr for $830.00 per apparatus, $218 for labor and $600 for parts plus shipping. A quote from River Valley Radio for $6hrs of labor at $129 per hour for $774 to do install on all three apparatus, however parts will need to be provided. Estimate from First Net through their installer is $1,687.37 for parts and install for three apparatus – tablets not included. More information to follow when the estimates can be broken down and compared.
3. Inquired about the hose reel quote status, she did not understand why the quote went so high. She also stated she has been unable to obtain A/C and Heat service estimates, and she recommended that the district put the service out to bid. Discussion followed – no action at this time.

Commissioner Boughton:

1. Inquired about the status of the firehouse project. Commissioner J. Spinnenweber II advised that board had met with the district's attorney on a path forward and this week will be meeting with the bond counsel to discuss options moving forward. The construction attorney cannot be obtained until the district has made a decision on the type and scale of firehouse which will be constructed.
2. Inquired whether EZ-Pass was received and Commissioner M. Spinnenweber advised yes, it has and was put in 48-12.

New Business:

Commissioner Sammons:

1. Central Hudson is working on new gas installation. There is one plumbing line the district will have to retain a contractor to install, and he will do so when needed.

Commissioner M. Spinnenweber:

1. Has liability insurance on file for Spinnenweber PFV and MagneGrip.
2. Dutchess Overhead Door installed new door motor for Rescue 2 bay, however when the apparatus was backed in the truck was hit by the bar on the new door closure. Damage to A/C unit will be reimbursed by Dutchess Overhead Door and apparatus needs to be brought to Campers World for an estimate. **A motion was made by Commissioner M. Spinnenweber, 2nd Commissioner Boughton authorizing Rescue 2 be brought to**

Campers World for an estimate to repair A/C unit and submit bill to Dutchess Overhead Door for payment. 5ok motion carried.

Commissioner J. Spinnenweber II:

1. Starlink has been working fine, and he is requesting authorization to cancel Spectrum accounts for internet. **A motion was made by Commissioner M. Spinnenweber, 2nd Commissioner Brechter authorizing Commissioner J. Spinnenweber to cancel internet and cable for Headquarters and cable for Sta #1. 5ok motion carried.** Discussion was held on what members could use for watching TV. Commissioner J. Spinnenweber stated that ROKU TV is being set up for Headquarters and Sta#1.
2. Received information from Assistant Chief J. Mains about available grants. Commissioner J. Spinnenweber II will forward information to Commissioners' Sammons and M. Spinnenweber. Chief Mains stated the AFG grant was not for a firehouse, however may be used staffing grant and possibly gear.

Commissioner M. Spinnenweber requested to return to unfinished business.

Commissioner M. Spinnenweber:

1. Received a letter from the district's insurance company authorizing members to cut trees at the firehouse site. She also reviewed IRS documentation relating to mileage rate and addressed it with the board. They are adjusted annually for expenses including fuel and wear and tears, not just the fuel.
2. Addressed again quotes for tablet install after she reviewed quotes. Mike Parr provided an estimate for $654.00 to install and parts $1,836.00 River Valley Radio is $774 for six hours work however they stated it may take less time to install, and parts will need o be supplied. Dave from First Net is $1,984.77 for labor to install and parts are $1,687.35. Tablets are $297.00 ea. And $45.00 per month service charge. **A motion was made by Commissioner Boughton, 2nd Commissioner M. Spinnenweber, authorizing purchase of three tablets from First Net at $97.00 ea. With a monthly service charge of $45.00. Furthermore, it is authorized to have Mike Parr install three tablets in designated apparatus for $654.00 labor and $1,836.00 parts. Vote: Commissioners' J. Spinnenweber II, M. Spinnenweber, Brechter, Boughton – Yes. Commissioner Sammons – No. Motion passed.**
3. Commissioner M. Spinnenweber stated she wished to make her own clarification to the public that last month Chief Mains did not say that he would not respond to any calls, he said that he would no matter what happened with the firehouse. He said he would respond to every and all calls. She wanted to clarify for the Chief.
4. Per past conversations it was inquired why it takes the Board of Fire Commissioners so long to decide. The board is waiting to make a decision and is awaiting the information and quotes to be provided. If you want something, obtain the quotes to complete it.

Return to new business:

Secretary Dauner:

1. Three applicants were approved by the department and are presented to the board to be considered for appointment. They are Angel Molina and Anthony Montone as probationary firefighters and Gavin Briggs as a probationary firefighter with age restrictions. **A motion was made by Commissioner J. Spinnenweber II, 2nd Commissioner Sammons to appoint Angel Molina and Anthony Montone as probationary firefighters and Gavin Briggs as probationary firefighter with age restrictions. 5ok motion carried.**
2. Summit Fire submitted an estimate to repair two smoke detectors and install a new battery at Sta #2 in amount of $799.92. **A motion was made by Commissioner Brechter, 2nd Commissioner Boughton authorizing Summit Fire to make repairs to fire protection system in Sta #2 in amount of $799.92. 5ok motion carried.**

Treasurer Trojak:

1. Addressed the ongoing 2025 audit, she is working on properly allocating Magne Grip expenses and addressing a difference in payment on Engine 1 payment out of the Apparatus Reserve as the amount was over the amount authorized in the permissive referendum. This amount of $5,932.11 was due to upfitting costs and was being investigated being paid out of the apparatus fund for 2026 to replenish the reserve account – more to follow. The 2025 Audit is in progress, and accountant has asked for certified payroll for this year as well as May minutes. Accountant advised the draft audit should be sent out soon to the district.

Chief's Report:

1. Correspondence about 441 Broadway was previously addressed.
2. After the previous meeting the board received an email which the Chief stated it did not accuse him however insinuated that he would not show up and would encourage the membership not to respond to calls. He takes offense to that as he takes pride in his family name being synonymous to this department for so long and that it is still being carried on. He takes pride that on peoples worse day no matter who they are he shows up and can make quick decisions outside the box to make it less worse than it could be and be as effective as it can be and he takes pride in professionalism no matter what he thinks and that he will do his job and ensure his personnel do their job. The Chief asked the gentleman who sent the email, Mr. Cerini, what exactly the Chief stated at the recent meeting that would let him believe this. Mr. Cerini who was present at the meeting stated that he never said the Chief would not respond and he interpreted that as it left a question because it seemed the Chief was harboring resentment against the community when the Chief said people bash him and then expect him to show up if they need him. The Chief stated that he did not say that and exactly what he stated was the majority of the district's residents and especially the imports do not care about the fire department and the only thing they care about is that when they dial 911 someone shows up. To further emphasize that the Chief stood up during public hearings for the firehouse and was beat up by prominent people in this town. The Chief and membership were accused at hearings and on social media that they would not show up and that if they did it wouldn't

matter as they didn't know what they were doing. The Chief responded to one individual and that resident came back and apologized and stated the Chief never said that and the department always shows up. Recently another resident involved in the criticism had an emergency and the department spent three hours at the residence looking into a gas leak because they wanted to make sure the residence and occupants were safe. At the firehouse election, people that were not even residents of the fire district were trying to vote, and some people asked why the department wanted another firehouse when one was built 25 years ago down the road. This is in the Esopus Fire District. The Chief said he does not have to like what people say but he has never held a grudge and has never not showed up for someone who needed help and neither has the membership. The Chief said there are plenty in the town who have a lot to say about the department and district and how it is run and not one has come in for an application and when asked to join say they do not have time for it.

Permission for Headquarters Hall Usage:

1. Jan Miller is requesting to use headquarters hall on 2nd Tuesday of month from 5:00 to 8:00pm September 2026 to June 2027 for Ladies Hibernians. After discussion, **a motion was made by Commissioner M. Spinnenweber, 2nd Commissioner Boughton for Hibernian Ladies to be authorized to use Headquarters Hall 2nd Tuesday of month 5:00pm to 7:00pm for September – November 2026 and revisit further dates later. 5ok motion carried.**
2. **A motion was made by Commissioner M. Spinnenweber, 2nd Commissioner Brechter authorizing George Banks to use Headquarters Hall June27th 10:00am to 6:00pm with no alcohol. 5ok motion carried.**

Commissioner M. Spinnenweber inquired why minutes were not posted on website for past several months. Secretary advised that the district does not own a website and it is the department's privately owned site. He provides them to the department however the district is not responsible.

From the Floor:

Steve Cerini:

1. Addressed his recent email and he was in receipt of Commissioner Spinnenweber's response letter. In the response letter it uses the term misrepresentation which he felt was incorrect. If the board wished to discuss his interpretation of the content it was a different story, when someone says something, you hear what they say but do not know what they mean which creates a question which he raised to the board. At no place in his email did he make an accusation or say anything that the Chief would not respond. He stated it created doubt; you are talking about public image, confidence, and respect. When you say something, it counts. Steve understands the Chiefs frustration and understands there are some strained relationships with the community, but what needs to happen to start repairing that. If you lose public trust and respect you have to earn that back. He understands what the Chief said about some people in the community as he has witnessed himself, what can be done to start rebuilding bridges. Commissioner Boughton

said it starts with education and a start is the community coming to meetings. Steve said misinformation is a huge issue he has observed within the community. Secretary Dauner stated all the information is out there in the minutes and is available and the firehouse project was addressed at public hearings and the planning board however at the vote the department was dragged through the mud and after the vote several residents came to the meetings and then everyone stopped attending. The members have not done anything to lose the public trust and ever since that vote the membership has responded to calls and one of the largest fires the department has ever had occurred last summer and were it not for the membership that responded there would have been a significant catastrophe. The members are out there every day, put their life on the line and are not asking for anything. Rebuilding the public trust includes having the public come around and be involved. The district and department have tried to change things; commissioners have come on working on making better relations and the public has not come around. The Commissioners', Chiefs', firehouse committee, and membership are doing their due diligence. The Chief stated the department still goes out with Santa, does Pancake Breakfasts, fire prevention, etc. He cannot remember a time when the department has not fixed a problem, when someone takes words and twists them to create a new narrative that is an agenda. People only want to dial 911 if someone shows up, they do not know who it is they just know a fire truck shows up. The department never detoured if anything they did more after the vote. Steve said this is the first time he heard talk about pride and dedication in the recent months he has attended board meeting, Chief Mains stated he believes everyone takes pride, but they don't need or expect a pat on the back but they do expect not to be "bashed". When you do your job, you know you did a good job and don't need to be praised. The Chief feels the department has a good group and he'll say again he is proud.

George Post:

1. Sunday June 14th the American Legion would like to have Flag Day services and asked the department to join. The Chief said he would bring to membership and it would be covered.
2. George attested to the members responding to help the public and they have helped him recently with a gas leak. He commended the membership and hoped that the public would read the minutes and see what they do. The department has helped with Flag Day and Memorial Day Parades and he has never called for assistance, and the department has not showed up. The department does a fantastic job, and the community is lucky to have the great group of volunteers they have.

A.E. Stokes:

1. Addressed the bond issue and asked if it could be returned. Secretary Dauner stated that it would significantly affect the district's bond rating, however the district is meeting with their Bond Counsel and all questions will be asked including that.

Joe Mains:

1. Addressed hose reels and the costs of the estimate. He inquired where the material would be procured from, Frank Banks stated he received quote from Spinnenweber PFV. Discussion followed. It was mentioned that NYS Comptroller in past stated that

companies which commissioners are involved in should not be procured from. The Secretary stated it was not his words, but he is only addressing as this has been a pat practice through him. Discussion followed and it was stated that if it is purchased by another company, it is fine, however a bill from company should not be submitted directly. The question involving the quote was that originally the hose reels were thought to cost $100 prior to quoting, however, were found to be more. Jack Spinnenweber said a decision should be made whether to investigate purchasing and Chief Mains stated he would investigate it.

A.E. Stokes inquired about minutes being posted and asked if department would post it. Secretary Dauner stated he would talk to Roger Brandt who handles the department's website.

Commissioner Sammons stated there were issues with the neighbors near Sta #1 with kids throwing bricks and rocks at annex and peeling brick work on Sta #1 and balls have gone on the roof. The owner of the building has the dumpster overflowing with garbage going onto district property. Commissioner J. Spinnenweber II will address.

Motion to adjourn made at 20:25 by Commissioner Brechter, 2nd by Commissioner Spinnenweber II. 5ok Motion Carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mike Dauner
District Secretary