Fly Creek Board of Fire Commissioners

P O Box 218

Fly Creek, NY 13337

December 16, 2021

Corrected Version

Present: Commissioners Christine Voulo, Vincent Ruggiero, Matthew Pernat, Secretary Claire Kepner, Treasurer Maria Deysenroth

The meeting was opened at 7:00 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Due to the rise in COVID cases in Otsego county and discussion with our Fire District Attorney, Mr.Hannigan, we were advised that the meeting could be closed to the general public out of concern over COVID and televised via Zoom for the community . Public notices were posted on the Fly Creek Dept sign, the Fly Creek Fire Company website and on the door to the main hall of the firehouse.

 At exactly 7 pm, Ex- commissioner Ed Kukenberger was seen through the window punching the security code into the fire hall door and immediately opened it allowing himself and Ed Hobbie into the building. Christine Voulo walked over immediately and advised the meeting was closed to the general public out of concerns over COVID and they could watch the meeting via zoom. They refused to leave citing “what we were doing was illegal” and in turn opened the door further allowing Connie Hobbie, Pam Deane, Betty Staffin, Harry Winnie, Arlene Knapp and Margaret Wolff to enter the building also creating a ruckus. They were asked multiple times to leave and refused. Mr. Hobbie was asked to put his mask on and would not oblige. Christine Voulo informed them they were disrupting a public meeting and we could not conduct district business and informed the group she was calling 911 to have them removed. At that time, Ms. Deane and Mr. Winnie exited the building while the others remained refusing to leave. Two officers from the Sheriff’s Dept arrived and asked the group again to leave. They refused and were becoming confrontational which prompted the officers to request their supervisor to the scene. Sgt Solovitch arrived and advised the group to leave immediately. Upon leaving, Mr. Hobbie told the Sgt “he was wrong “ and proceeded to point his finger at Chairman Ruggiero stating “I’m going to get you Vinnie”.

The meeting was Readjourned at 7:35 pm

Chairman Ruggiero presided and read a memo from Chair of the Commissioners Glenn Morrison that stated he had to resign due to health concerns.

Voulo made a motion to not read the minutes from either the October 2021 meeting or the November 2021 meeting due to multiple inaccuracies and lack of transparency on the part of Secretary Kepner. Pernat second it and it was approved.

 Correspondence - none

Financial report

Balance forward 239,866.44

(less) bills paid 9,059.69

(plus) Total interest 7.72

Current Balance 230,814.47

Money Market Balance NBT 175,113.71

Checking Balance NBT 55,700.76

Treasurer Deysenroth requested a transfer since EMS was over budget.

Chairman Ruggiero made a motion to appoint Mrs. Joan Kegelman as a commissioner Commissioner Voulo seconded it and it was unanimously approved. Mrs. Kegelman was sworn in that evening.

Bills

Kinsley 1,990.06

Spectrum 119.98

Bound Tree 458.44

Westlake ACE 116.91

Elizabeth Susman 70.00

Ruth Bennett-Kitchen 70.00

Maryanne Ruggiero 70.00

Kelly Steele 70.00

Gladys Hunt 70.00

Elizabeth Susman 14.04

Claire Kepner 10.79

The Daily Star 50.10

Town of Otsego 37.54

Marsars Water Rescue 920.00

Claire Kepner 900.00

Maria Deysenroth 1200.00

Jerome 7,467.21

Christine Voulo 100.00

Airgas 77.10

A motion to pay the bills was made by Pernat, second by Voulo and approved.

Chief’s Report

1 – November calls: Fire 2, EMS 35 toned calls (20 were to Cooperstown, 7 Fly Creek, 6 Richfield, 2 Edmeston) Responded to 7 (1 Cooperstown, 5 Fly Creek, 1 Richfield)

2 – Airbag training and also Halloween Parade for Brookwood was held

3 – Building compressor is serviced and fixed

4 – Building generator has been serviced

5 – Truck room walk doors – waiting for panic bars

6 -- Pricing new tires for 0513

7 – 0513 check and servicing 2022

8 – Still working on turnout gear

9 – Company medicals 1/11/22

Chief Voulo asked for $2,000.00 for batteries but since it is too late to purchase in 2021 he is going to wait until 2022.

EMS report was in the Chief’s report and there was no Fire Police report.

Commissioner Pernat made a motion to accept the reports, second by Christine Voulo and approved.

Chairman Ruggiero reported on the Auxiliary – They sent Holiday cards and filled bags of candy for Santa to give out for the Christmas Santa parade At their meeting Chief Voulo discussed with the members what he expected from them to support the Company’s work.

Christine Voulo made a motion to accept the report, second by Commissioner Pernat and approved.

Chairman Ruggiero made a motion to have an independent audit of the previous years. This was second by Pernat and unanimously approved.

Chairman Ruggiero thanked Treasurer Deysenroth and Secretary Kepner for their service.

Chairman Ruggiero stated the commissioners have received questions from the members of the company and the community about a potential conflict of interest with the election of the new Treasurer Pamela Deane and her other elected job as Town Clerk for the Town of Otsego. This was sent to the state Comptroller’s Office who referred it to the Attorney General’s Office. They are waiting for a response.

Due to Governor Hochul’s open meetings law from Covid, the public is requested to send any questions and comments to flycreekfiredistrict@gmail.com with name and phone number until further notice .

The organizational meeting and the monthly meeting of the Commissioners will be Monday January 10, 2022.

Chairman Ruggiero stated the results of the election or December 14th could not be called until 7 days after the election due to the absentee ballots.

Commissioner Voulo made a motion to adjourn at 7:50, second by Commissioner Pernat and approved.

Corrected Version of December meeting minutes

Respectfully,

Vince Ruggiero and Christine Voulo