

Rush Fire District
Board of Commissioners
DRAFT Meeting Minutes: October 18, 2022
Public Comment: *three minute rule*

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| Meeting called to order: PM Pledge of Allegiance Roll Call: Present | Commissioner Scott Goodman, Commissioner Doug Platt, Commissioner Bob Faugh, Commissioner Dale Sweet, Commissioner Mike Terzo, Chief Jon Faugh, Asst Chief Mike Terzo Jr., Assistant Chief Kevin Smith, Secretary Kitty Stappenbeck Representing the Town of Rush: Councilman Dan Chase |
| Absent | Treasurer Aletha Steehler |
| Also in attendance: | Carol DuBois, Zach Dubois, Jim Princehorn, Dan Kwiecien |
| Community Hearing Motion to open community hearing for budget by Commissioner Terzo, seconded by Commissioner Platt. Approved 5 - 0. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● First question by Ms. DuBois - why are tax dollars so much higher than prior year? ● Commissioner Goodman replied with reasons: hiring employees to staff the fire house during the day; all expenses are increasing; Commissioner Terzo added that Rush needs to purchase a new fire truck and funds will be needed to increase the equipment account. Commissioner Faugh added that fuel alone increased 300% last month. |

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| <p>Motion to close the open meeting relative to the budget approval made by Commissioner Terzo, seconded by Commissioner Sweet. Approved 5 - 0</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Zach DuBois questioned the hiring of staff: did the Commissioners investigate other options such as Staff Leasing? Commissioner Goodman responded, no, we felt this was the best option. ● Ms. DuBois asked if the laborers would hold EMT certification <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Commissioner Terzo replied yes. He also gave statistics regarding response time of the Rush Ambulance: NFPA standards are 14 minutes. In 2020, Rush response time was 20 minutes; For EMT calls, 24 minutes. This is NOT acceptable |
| <p>Approval of Prior Months Minutes</p> <p>Motion made to accept minutes with addition of letter made by Commissioner Terzo, seconded by Commissioner Goodman, passed 3 - 0. Commissioners Sweet and Platt abstained from the vote as they did not attend the September meeting.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Omission of letter from PESH sent to Asst. Chief Terzo. Secretary will add. In Sept minutes, Asst Chief Terzo had said he ordered additional hose, but it wouldn't be in until 2023. ● Commissioner Sweet indicated that there had been no mention of a motion made for purchase of new hose - Secretary will double check the video/recording from the Sept meeting |
| <p>Town Report Dan Chase reported</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Clarified the 10% tax reduction available to Firefighters for property tax. Requests made to the town will go into effect on |

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| | <p>January 1, 2023 for the new fiscal year property tax.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● He was asked about the BOCES buildings - replied that the town is looking at demolition possibilities. Roofs are not repairable |
| <p>Communications</p> <p>This was not discussed, but was on the agenda. Am leaving it in the minutes as a record of required future action.</p> | <p>FYI: Based on the last federal census (2020) Monroe County has been added to Suffolk, Nassau and Westchester counties such that local elections must be in both English and Spanish. Secretary will post notices in both languages in the GVP and will have ballots in both languages.</p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;">Chief's Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Commissioner Terzo asked how we get our EMT's cleared. Assistant chief Smith responded that EMT's are going elsewhere to get their training/time on calls. Reason is that we do not have enough volume and/or the right people showing up for the call. Firefighter DuBois added that there is a required course for individuals that want to train EMT's on the ambulance. He does not have, so cannot be a trainer. Terzo is looking for help/suggestions for Rush EMT's | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Chief Faugh met with the Fire Marshal to investigate the issues with the alarm at 55 Woodruff Rd. He indicated the alarm is going off all the time. They found that all the alarm sensors were dirty, had cobwebs on them and suggested the owners clean them. Property is run by the Epilepsy Org. ● He also had a tour of the Moore property that was purchased by marijuana growers. The facility will mainly be used as a processing facility for other growers, there will be no sales at that location. |
| <p>Commissioner Goodman asked</p> | <p>Asst. Chief Smith about the audit and if secretary had received the email.</p> <p>She did not receive it and asked Asst Chief to forward.</p> |

Line Officer Qualifications

Motion by Commissioner Sweet, seconded by Commissioner Goodman to resend line officer qualifications in draft form to Rush Fire Department members. The members will have 30 days from their next meeting (Nov 7) to comment. Motion approved 5 - 0.

- Commissioner Sweet started off the conversation with problems surrounding the communication of this SOG. Delivery and communication fell flat. SOG was approved in July, not sent till Oct. to members. It should have been sent to members giving them 30 days for comments. The secretary did not follow proper formatting for SOGs.
- Commissioner Goodman said he was not opposed to revisiting.
- Discussion around details of resending ensued.
- Commissioner Terzo agreed to attend and take questions at the members meeting
- Suggestion by Ms. DuBois to put together a course schedule, when and where classes are offered.
- Commissioner Faugh indicated that Assistant Chief Terzo sends weekly emails regarding training.
- Asst. Chief Terzo further expounded on his communication to members
- Commissioner Sweet commented that not responding to the members' email was because no one commissioner can speak for the board and that all business is conducted at the board meeting.

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Commissioner Platt asked whose responsibility it is to communicate board meeting actions to the membership. Response: the Chief. ● Zach Dubois asked that an email be sent with details regarding Line Officer Qualifications |
| Building & Grounds | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● eyewash stations installed ● cannot get ignition switches installed in the new kitchen stove because of high cost (. Workaround is to manually light one burner, leave it on so the other burners will light |
| Vehicles | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 583 will go to Tracy Road to troubleshoot the air leak and this company will be used for vehicle inspections ● Commissioner Sweet asked about getting the window fixed |
| Equipment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Commissioner Platt gave an update - the exterminator came out for the quarterly inspection. No mice inside, but all the poison was gone from the outside ● Commissioner Sweet reported on the FEMA grant that was awarded to Rush for airpacks. We asked for \$265,000 and got \$193,000. Discussion regarding airpacks and what size to get. Commissioner Sweet said he would get some samples for |

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| | members to try. Two years to close out grant. |
| IT | Asst Chief Terzo mentioned Google drive and why the SOGs are not on the drive. Commissioner Goodman said they were and the Secretary offered to help the Asst Chief with location. He also asked that meeting minutes be housed in one place that was accessible to all the members |
| SOP's/SOG's | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secretary indicated that the attorney had looked at the employee handbook. It is lacking a sexual harassment policy. Secretary was directed to the NYS website and is working on tweaking for the use by Rush District and Department. |
| Personnel | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Onboarding and some initial training for Linsey, Dave - Jessica time tbd. • Asst Chief Terzo talked about training and that the new hires will receive the same initial training as any new member of the fire dept. • Tim notified both the secretary and Commissioner Terzo to resign |
| Publicity & Associations- ASK for surveys to be returned to Steve Spears, by Nov 1st | MCFDOA November meeting: no fee for Commissioners. BrookLea Country Club; Speaker is Tim Graves, Homeland Securities; Nov 17. Commissioner Platt said he will attend |
| Bills - signed by Commissioners Terzo Faugh and Sweet | Secretary gave background on why there was payment to Secretary and |

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| <p>Motion to pay the bills, voucher #'s 225 - 242 in the amount of \$18,625.90 made by Commissioner Faugh , seconded by Commissioner. Terzo Approved 5 - 0.</p> | <p>Treasurer for both August and September. These two positions are now paid monthly instead of quarterly. The laborers will be paid on a bi-weekly cycle.</p> |
| <p>Insurance/Budget/Attorney Commissioner Sweet reported:</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● that the laborers had been added to the Workers Comp policy and that the next big insurance payment will be the cancer insurance payment. The secretary thought the bill had come in, but was advised the paperwork received is probably the policy, which will be filed in the 'green' binder in the overhead bin after the bill is paid. ● Commissioner Terzo reported that he has new information on criteria for cancer policy; he will forward to the commissioners |
| <p>Liaison Town Boards</p> | <p>No planning or zoning board applications for review</p> |
| <p>Old Business</p> | |
| <p>New Business Motion made to accept the budget for 2023 in the amount of \$489,067.70 by Commissioner Terzo, seconded by Commissioner Platt. Approved 5 - 0.</p> | <p>Budget action</p> |
| <p>Large Room Rental Motion to approve use of room by Commissioner Faugh, seconded by Commissioner Terzo, approved 5 - 0</p> | <p>November 20, 2022 Dale Sweet requested use of room for a birthday party.</p> |
| <p>Small Room Rental</p> | <p>N/A</p> |
| <p>Motion to Adjourn: 9:28 PM</p> | <p>Motion to adjourn made by Commissioner Platt, seconded by</p> |

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| | Commissioner Sweet. Passed by common consent. |
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