

**RUSH FIRE DISTRICT, BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS**  
**1971 Rush-Mendon Road, Rush, New York 14543**  
**Meeting Minutes September 17, 2024**

**Roll Call:** Chairman Scott Goodman called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**Present:** Commissioner Scott Goodman, Commissioner Douglas Platt, Commissioner Robert Faugh, Commissioner Dale Sweet, Commissioner Michael Terzo. Chief Jon Faugh, Asst Chief Daniel Kwiecien, Treasurer Aletha Steehler, Secretary Kitty Stappenbeck  
Asst Chief Terzo joined the meeting at 7:15

**Town of Rush:**

Representing the Town of Rush was Luther Keyes (in for Councilmember Jeanne Morelli)

**Rush Fire Department** member(s) were also in attendance: Jim Princehorn, Alvin Sweet and Zachary DuBois

**Rush Budget Presentation by Jason Schwartz and Tammy Bullis from Bernhard P. Donegan**

Budget binders were distributed. Items of discussion started with the calendar, indicating we were at step 3 and 5. On the expense tab, note that the Personnel budget had been \$75,000 but we expect to come in at \$102,000.

A discussion regarding a resolution to go over the tax cap, even though there is no plan to go over for 2025; the resolution protects the district if something goes wrong. At the recommendation of Jason Schwartz, BPD Inc. we will include a resolution each year at the Organizational meeting to exceed the tax cap, as a proactive measure.

**Report From the Town:**

Luther Keyes attended for Jeanne Morelli and reported:

There was interest in buying the catholic church for a possible rec center/community center for plays and coffee shop in the lower level.

Representatives from Family Dollar attended the planning board meeting; the town is still waiting for plans that show the store facade will 'fit in' with the feel of the town.

**Approval of Minutes:**

Approval of Meeting minutes - corrections were made by Commissioner Sweet as follows:

- Add Treasurer and Secretary to roll call
- Under Chief's report - clarify that the lucas device was taken to the call, but not needed
- Clarify that Commissioner Terzo indicated that he was going to follow up on adding gutter guards at house 2 (not replace the gutters)
- Commissioner Terzo talked about hydrant hookup (not drafting demo)

- Asst Chief Terzo wants water authority to do testing on hydrants not RUSH
- Insurance - fix spelling on word something
- When printed, the minutes were skewed on Commissioner Sweet's copy. Be sure to check the printed minutes when posted.

**Motion** made by Commissioner Terzo to accept meeting minutes from August 20 with corrections, seconded by Commissioner Sweet, passed 5 - 0.

### **Chief's Report:**

Month of August was busy - 73 calls (typically only 1 per day)

Commissioner Goodman got an email from the town regarding the Fall Festival - does Rush have EMT standby for the day - The Chief replied he did not have anyone available for the entire day. If there is an issue that day, 911 should be called

### **Buildings and Grounds:**

- Commissioner Terzo reported:
  - There was a gas leak in the boiler room; RGE took care of it
  - The sink in the ladies room was replaced; the toilet in ladies room was replaced, as well as faucets in both bathrooms; replaced the faucet in the men's room
  - Rush will no longer use the sprinkler company that we have been using. The current owner is not well versed in procedures that should be followed, such as sending paperwork to Monroe County
- Commissioner Sweet is going to investigate the unused space in the firehouse for better use of space by the Ladies Auxiliary (the kitchen cabinets are rotted and should be torn down) and the Department. He suggested looking at the old kitchen area, chair area in maintenance closed and the room outside the ladies bathroom (suggested use: EMS items to be closer to the ambulance). He will work with the Chief and DO DuBois on this and try to bring something to the next meeting.

### **Station 2 - Commissioner Terzo reported**

- Leaf Guard estimate for gutters at house 2 is \$3500. Better to pay for Chet Lockman (local gutter cleaning company)
- There is a gap of 1 inch where the parking lot meets the side of the building which will cause a problem. The siding needs to be repaired/replaced; he will get in touch with a contractor to fix the siding.
- Need to put LED light back up (put on side of building)
- Commissioner Sweet indicated that the paving is complete and will need to be sealed next year
- The Chief said that he rebuilt toilet at house 2 and was thanked for his time

### **Vehicles:**

- 584 had leak in piping
- 582 had leak in pump
- 587 - batteries replaced last week (by the Chief)
- 588 - electrical short but HarRob is too busy/ Commissioner Terzo will check with Caledonia Diesel to see if they can accommodate us.
- Ambulance: the radio in the ambulance was replaced (this is the second one-radio kept shutting off). One Motorola radio has been sent to Skyway to check out

- Our contact at Skywave - is leaving , Commissioner Terzo asked for price on replacement batteries (Asst Chief Kwiecien mentioned that 12 were bulged)

**NOTE:** If one of the Chiefs recognizes an issue with one of the trucks, all the Commissioners should be copied in on the email so everyone is aware of the issue.

DO DuBois offered a contact at CHS if Rush wanted to partner with CHS to do a bulk battery buy - contact Chris McCall

**Equipment:** no report

**Information Technology:**

Included the purchase of new computers (due to Windows 11 upgrade) in the 2025 budget

**SOGs and SOPs:**

Commissioner Goodman reported that Dr. Cushman said Rush needed a SOG for the Lucas device. He sent commissioners and chiefs SOG and asked them to review. Commissioner Terzo asked the Chief if there was any update on SOGs; the Chief indicated that they are being worked on. Zack DuBois reported that he is refreshing all the EMT related SOGs

**Personnel:**

- Relative to the newest member of the fire department - Commissioner Terzo asked 'who gave him his gear? He has a black helmet with yellow tape on it'. No one at the table admitted to giving him the black helmet, however Asst Chief Kwiecien said he had given him red gear in order to observe the Extrication training. Commissioner Terzo said he should not have any gear until his orientation is complete. The Secretary indicated she had not gotten any Inventory sheets for anyone lately.
- The Secretary wanted the Board to be aware that if a member does not have a NYS drivers license, they will not be listed in LENS (the NYS license software).
  - If they are not in LENS, they will be marked as 'no to drive' in Red Alert
- Phil Gibeau gave Commissioner Terzo the name of someone who might be interested in the laborer job. Commissioner Terzo will try to arrange an interview meeting.
- Commissioner Terzo will update job description for laborers

**Publicity and Associations:** no report

**Physicals:** Tentative date is January 27, 2025

- Commissioner Platt reported on physicals - As the date is OK with the commissioners, he will confirm with Healthworks
- Information was presented from United Diagnostics (UD), used by Rochester City FF, regarding the body scan which has been newly added by many districts to the Firefighter medical/physical information. The cost is \$325 per person for a 9 body part scan, can add extras if want: i.e. low dose chest x ray. Rush budgeted for 10 members in 2025, will budget 10 more in 2026, etc. UD indicated 15 people would take about a day to complete.

- We may be able to piggyback on another Fire District/Department. Henrietta is scheduled for the Spring of 2025
- Another company, Lifeline Screening - cost is dependent on how many body parts scanned: five would be \$160, 10 body parts would be \$298
- Commissioner Platt will get a more formal proposal for October meeting

**Treasurers' Report:** The Treasurer reported

- Short Term CD (3 of them) maturation dates end of year and Feb 2026. These are 6 month CD's
- The Fed just reduced interest rates by .5 basis points, so Interest rates should start to come down. This will have an effect on the Fire District CD's.
- The Board may want to consider longer term CD's

**Bills:** Voucher #'s 2024 **203 through 228 \$25,831.95**

**Motion** made by Commissioner Terzo to approve payment of the bills in the amount of \$25,831.95, seconded by Commissioner Platt. Approved 5 - 0.

- The Vouchers were reviewed by Commissioners Faugh, Sweet and Terzo.

**Inventory, Inspection and Dinner:**

- Wildwood has been booked for the dinner: November 9, 2024
- Inventory dates:
  - Monday, Oct 7: provide Commissioner Platt's cell #. He will be available all day
  - Monday, Oct 14, 6 - 9pm: Commissioner Sweet
  - Monday, Oct 21, 6 - 9pm: Commissioner Goodman
  - Monday, Oct 28, 6 - 9pm: Commissioner Terzo
  - Saturday, Oct 12 and Oct 19, 9 am - noon: Commissioner Terzo

The members will be notified of the schedule by the Secretary via email.

**Insurance/Budget/Attorney:**

Per Commissioner Sweet, no updates on insurance

**Motion** to accept the proposed budget as presented by BPD by Commissioner Sweet, seconded by Commissioner Terzo. Passed 5 - 0.

**Motion** by Commissioner Terzo, seconded by Commissioner Platt to accept the resolution to exceed the tax cap as outlined in the attachment to meeting minutes. Passed 5 - 0

**Report from Fire Marshal Rick Tracy** discussed the process for the Knox Box: the fire marshal or town cannot be the administrator of the Knox Box, it must be the fire district and/or department. Rick verified with Knox that only Robert or Jon Faugh would be able to approve the addition of a resident/business.

The Fire Marshal said that he *could* require (by code) to add a Knox Box for NEW construction but it wouldn't apply to established businesses.

The Chief said that he has applications and Rick can give them out - OR he could set it up via the Knox website and he would then get an email to approve.

Commissioner Terzo wants to be added to this process.

**Liaison Town Board:**

2024-8P: Perry Hill Estates (Phase 2); subdivide 40 acres into 3 lots, 2 of which will have single family homes

2024-7Z: Christopher Beden, 6484 Rush Lima Rd; variance for setback for shed

**Membership:**

Secretary received a background check authorization form for John Pschierer but no membership form

**Motion** by Commissioner Sweet, seconded by Commissioner Platt to accept John Pschierer as a new member of the Rush Fire Department pending the outcome of background check by the Secretary. Passed 5 - 0.

**Old Business:**

**New Business:**

- Large Meeting Room: Cub Scouts

First and Third Thursday of each month from October 3, 2024 through April 24 2025

**Motion** by Commissioner Platt to allow the cub scouts to use the large meeting room at House #1 as outlined; seconded by Commissioner Faugh, passed 5 - 0.

- Asst Chief Kwiecien asked about using Red Alert to attach documents/pictures to incidents. Commissioner Terzo replied that this will eventually be handled by Vector Solutions, so for now Asst Chief Terzo suggested using a separate folder in Google Drive as a cheaper method to save these.

- Asst Chief Kwiecien requested access in Red Alert to run reports/print incident reports. Commissioner Terzo will take care of.

- Zack would like to buy a new battery for the stretcher at a cost of \$800. One this year, one next year to stagger the expiration dates.

- Zack has no access to the commissioners office - needs the copier for the second round of fund drive. Commissioner Terzo indicated that the copier will be moved outside the Commissioners door prior to mid October

**Adjournment:**

**Motion** by Commissioner Faugh, seconded by Commissioner Terzo to adjourn the meeting. Meeting was adjourned at 8:38 pm by common consent.