**RUSH FIRE DISTRICT**
Board of Commissioner
District Meeting Minutes
***September 15, 2026***

Roll Call: Meeting called to Order at 7:02 PM by Chairman Dale Sweet followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call:

| Present | Name | Capacity | Notes |
|---|---|---|---|
| YES | Faugh, Robert | Commissioner | |
| YES | Goodman, Scott | Commissioner | |
| YES | Pfersick, Diana | Commissioner | |
| YES | Sweet, Dale | Commissioner (Chair) | |
| YES | Terzo, Michael 'PeeWee' | Commissioner | |
| YES | Pacheco, Roseli | Treasurer | |
| YES | Stappenbeck, Kitty | Secretary | |
| YES | Faugh, Jon | Chief | |
| YES | Kwiecien, Dan | Asst. Chief | |
| YES | Socola, Andrew | Asst. Chief | Came in a bit late, not included in roll call |
| NO | DuBois, Zachary | DO, Ambulance | |
| NO | Villegas, Shaun | District Administrator | |

Other Attendees Noted

| Present | Name | Capacity | Notes |
|---|---|---|---|
| YES | Brown, Derek | Rush Councilmember | |
| NO | Tracy, Rick | Fire Marshal | |
| NO | Evans Van-Buren, Evans | Rush Fire Dept | |
| YES | Wickersham, Phyllis | Community Member | |
| YES | Schwartz, Jason | BPD | |

**Budget Hearing on Proposed Budget:**
Jason M. Schwartz from Bernard P. Donegan presented the 2027 proposed budget to the Rush Fire District. The proposed budget must be adopted by September 28. He led by talking about how the budget would impact residents and the tax rate for fire services. The district will need to exceed the tax cap, which will increase taxes approximately .25 (over last year) per $1000 assessed value of the home.
The public hearing must be published at least 5 days prior to the final budget vote which will be on October 20, and results delivered to the Town of Rush by no later than November 4, 2026.
The tax rate from 2026 was .84 per $1000, for 2027, it will be $1.09, an increase of twenty-five cents. So, for a home that is assessed at $300,000, the increase is approximately $75.00 over 2026 for 2027. Mr. Schwartz reviewed the revenue, which included the tax levy from the Town of Rush at $692,577 and anticipated revenue from investments of $15,000.
The discussion relative to fund balance reviewed keeping approximately two months worth of expenditures, to cover expenses until the tax money is received.
The major increase in expenditures is due to personnel (wages and benefits); insurance; and other miscellaneous line items. The amount to keep for budget transfer to reserve at the end of 2027 went from approximately $72,000 in 2026 to $103,000 for 2027 to try to build up reserve accounts in anticipation of purchasing a fire truck.

During a brief discussion of money that is in Reserves, S.Goodman asked 'if Rush were to bond something in the future is there any impact on spending'? Per J.Schwartz, principal interest on bonds do not have an impact on spending limits.

D.Sweet ended by explaining that the increase over last year is a little under 27% and will better position the district to handle increases in expenses.

D.Sweet thanked Mr. Schwartz for his presentation, at which point Mr. Schwartz left the meeting at 7:21 pm.

**Approval of Minutes**:
*CORRECTIONS to the August 18 meeting minutes by D.Sweet:*
*Under 'Equipment' change S.Sweet to **D**.Sweet;*
*Under 'Insurance/Budget/Attorney', change bullet 3 from Budget hearing to **workshop**/*
*Treasurer had correction to August Bills: from $39,712.44 to* $38,538.29

- D.Sweet asked why the difference: R.Pacheco responded that there was one duplicate (voucher 621) and one unknown medical bill (voucher 616.
- Motion by M.Terzo seconded by S.Goodman to accept the meeting minutes from 8/18/26, with above corrections. Passed 5 - 0.

**Fire Marshal:** No Report

**Town Councilmember**: Derek Brown indicated that the bulk of the town's time is currently spent working on the 2027 budget. Mentioned that the town will probably stay within the 2% tax cap. He responded to a question from the board regarding the pickleball courts - they will be positioned near the pavilion.

**Chief's Report:**

- J.Faugh reported there were 53 calls for the month of August, some of those calls were due to the storms (downed lines, etc), 35 were EMS; Responded 12 of them that is about 32%.l He doesn't have the specific number of ALS calls as the laborers and S.Goodman had covered most of those calls. EMS calls are slightly down from prior months at 32%. A copy of the report was given to the secretary.
- The chief said that Chief Manzo from CHS donated an AED unit, as one was reported missing from one of the trucks at RUSH in August. Chief Manzo also donated a second unit so Rush would have a backup. The secretary was instructed to send Chief Manzo a thank you from the Board.
    - The chief indicated that it remains undetermined as to how the AED went missing.
    - Note: AED's are more expensive than first thought - approximately $2000.00 a unit.

**Buildings and Grounds:**

- M.Terzo reported that there is mold on the ceiling at House 2. This was found by S.Villegas during a routine inspection of the building. He will notify S.Villegas to follow up with a company to assess the extent.
- Paving - Motion to seal parking lot at House 2, using Bella Paving in the amount of $750.00 by M.Terzo, seconded by D.Pfersick and passed 5 - 0. S.Villegas will be asked to make arrangements with them.
- M.Terzo brought up the issue of the stand by generator. D.Sweet followed up that there was a bad storm during the month and when the building lost power, the generator did not kick on. He was able to start it (by putting it in test mode), but then could not shut it off. He pressed the 'emergency stop' in order to stop it. The generator was serviced by CPS, but when the company left, there were several spark plug wires left unattached. CPS charged us tax; invoice will be paid without the tax. S.Villegas took care of this issue with the company.
- D. Sweet mentioned that S.Villegas should be signing off on the bills when he is aware of the work done, and knows about the charges.
- The issue about the septic system came up again. The pump is still acting up at station 1. There is a 'dead short'. The thermal coupler may need to be replaced.
- D.Sweet talked again to D.J.Kyle (highway supervisor) and Todd Krenzer (from the company that will do much of the work) confirm paving of the parking lot - The town will be filling in the cracks in the main parking lot at House 1, in preparation for the lot paving. This will be done on Sept 16. Mr. Kyle will keep the board apprised of the date paving will begin. M.Terzo asked if the town will address the downspouts as discussed

at a prior meeting. D.Sweet replied yes, those will be taken care of. The apron will be sealed next year.

- D.Kwiecien asked about re=lining the front apron as the lines are faded and almost non=existent. M.Terzo replied that this would be done next year. D.Sweet replied that perhaps someone should just take a roller and paint the lines in the interim.

**Vehicles:**

| Truck # | Issue | Resolution |
|---|---|---|
| **582** | 1. Driver and passenger side Flood lights on panel are not working<br>2. There is still a leak on 582 | |
| **583** | 1.Light on the passenger side - is out<br>May just need a bulb<br>2. Leak under vehicle - unknown where coming from<br>3. Pump panel lights are out<br>4. Missing Wheel Chock - ask PeeWee<br>5. Driver side wiper OOS | Flood light project being worked on - part has come in Tracy Road<br>Tracy Road<br><br>Goes to Tracy Road 9/22 |
| **584** | | |
| **587 - Brush Truck** | | |
| **588 Rescue** | | |
| **589 (Ambulance)** | | |
| **Chief's Vehicle** | | |
| **Boats - Station 2** | | |
| **STATION 2** | Black Mold Leak in truck bay above 582 | M.Terzo is aware of this and will ask S.Villegas to investigate |

**Equipment:**

- The quote from Dival for gas calibration in the amount of $285.56 was reviewed by M. Terzo and S.Villegas will be instructed to order *(under purchasing guidelines; did not need a board motion)*

- The quote from MES for purchase of black facemask bags in the amount of $270.00 was reviewed by M.Terzo and S. Villegas will be instructed to order. *(under purchasing guidelines; did not need a board motion).*
- S.Villegas got three quotes for the hose, but they were all from Firematic. D.Sweet offered to get the quotes for 5" hose to avoid more delay.

**Information Technology:**

- M.Terzo will send email to Kables to get D.Kwiecien added to Lenel to be able to issue and update key fobs.
- D.Kwiecien reported that he has been working with Red Alert since April or May. The report which calculates points is not accurate. He mentioned that there was some programming by Red ALert needed. Alpine told D.Kwiecien that Rush was behind on several updated versions of the software, and Rush had not been asked to update when accessing Red Alert as is the normal process. D.Kwiecien will send an email to ITISSUES.
- M.Terzo will make a call to Red Alert to follow up.

**SOGs and SOPs updates to policies in process:**

- Truck Policy - D.Sweet reviewed the policy and made just two changes, which will be updated and the policy will be sent (by the secretary) to the board one last time.*
- Conflict of Interest
    - Motion to accept the Conflict of Interest by D.Pfersick, seconded by S.Goodman and passed 5- 0. The secretary will publish on the web page.
- Code of Ethics was put on hold regarding D.Pfersick's conversation with Terry Hannigan (attorney for FASNY); She has a new policy (3 pages only) that addresses all the comments that were brought up by Z.DuBois.
    - Secretary will put the new information into the format and send it out to Commissioners.
- SOGs and SOPs added to web page - secretary will post the three indicated above as soon as completed

***NOTE**: M.Terzo notified the chiefs that the shared **Google sheet** to record fuel usage for all district vehicles is on all the Apple tablets (in the fire vehicles and the chiefs vehicles). The town is not sending the required information on the fuel bill. D.Sweet will reach out to try and get corrected. R.Pacheco asked if D.Kwiecien and J.Faugh could type up their fuel usage to make it easier for her to balance the bill to chief's usage.

**Personnel:**

- Laborer - One application received - not going to interview. The secretary will let the candidate know. The secretary will fix the hours on the original hire notice and ask the county to resend.
- M.Terzo addressed the phone call the chief received regarding a Rush Fire Truck driving erratically. The chief responded that based on the information in the call, this could not have been a Rush Fire Truck, as there was no reason for the Rush truck to be out at the time mentioned. The caller did not leave a phone number to be contacted.

- NYSLRS: The secretary reported that she received the actuary statement as to the dollar amount due to become a member: more than $24,000. She also received three documents that must be completed and returned in order to go to the next step. One is a resolution to join the program and one is an affidavit for the CFO to sign.
    - D.Sweet read the resolution that was received from the NYS Retirement System. Motion to accept the resolution by M.Terzo, seconded by D.Pfersick and passed 5 - 0.

**Publicity and Associations:**
MCFDOA monthly meeting is Thursday, no one will attend from the Rush Fire District

**Physicals:**
- Rush will not be able to secure a date for Rush physicals until October. The secretary was notified that Healthworks is undergoing some personnel changes and they will not schedule dates until later in October. The secretary will reach out and get a new pricing list.

**Inventory, Inspection and Dinner**:
- Dinner - Nov 14, 2026 - Please save the date!
- Dates for Members in-person inventory inspection:
    - Monday evenings September 28, Oct 5 (D.Sweet), Oct 12 (D.Pfersick), and Oct 19 (D.Sweet, D.Pfersick) from 6 = 8 pm
    - Saturday, Oct 17 (S.Goodman will be at firehouse from 9 am - 12 pm)
    - S.Villegas will be available Mon through Thursday from 9 am to 4 pm on a first come, first served basis.
    - The secretary will send an email to the membership with details.
- D.Kwiecien gave an update on the radios approved for resale. He indicated that the radios were listed on a couple of social media platforms, but he had not received any serious offers at this point. They have all been surplussed and the two totes in the Commissioners office need to be disposed of at a recycling center.

**Insurance/Budget/Attorney:**
- CyberSecurity Insurance Policy - D.Sweet said the policy is in effect and a bill should be received from Travelers Insurance within 45 days.
- D.Sweet processed the death benefit insurance paperwork for Matthew Bartles.
- D.Pfersick made a motion to approve the proposed budget in the amount of $698,077, with a tax levy of $682,577 . Motion seconded by M.Terzo. Passed 5 - 0.
- The budget hearing is on October 20, 2026 at 7:00 pm
- Councilmember D.Brown asked for clarification: $1.09 per thousand. Ex. for a house that is assessed at $300,000 equates to an additional $75.00

**Membership:**
No new applications to review.

**Treasurer Report:**

- Vouchers 2026-628 through 2026-656
- Amount $ 40,516.44
- Motion by M.Terzo , seconded by D.Pfersick to pay the bills as reported by R.Pacheco. Passed 5 - 0.

**Other Financial Business**

D.Sweet wanted to make sure that the CD's that were closed were put back into the correct accounts. The question was asked where the reserve funds are. Most of the reserve funds are in separate accounts at New York Class.
The question was asked if there was a permissive referendum to spend the money for the paving on the parking lot. Yes, that had been taken care of months ago.
The treasurer asked when money would be moved from the operating account into either of the reserve accounts. M.Terzo responded that would happen at the end of the year.

**New Business:**

- Small Meeting Room - October 17, 2026, Jenna Merdak requested use from 12 - 4
    - Motion to approve request by D.Sweet, seconded by D.Pfersick; passed 5 - 0.
- Reminder: Large Meeting Room - Oct 17, 2026 was reported in 2025 and approved for use for a long-time member of the Rush Fire Department for his 90th birthday party
- A.Socola asked that items (lightbar and other equipment) on M.Terzo Jr.'s personal truck be returned to the fire department. S.Goodman indicated that he will take care of getting the equipment back.
- A.Socola also asked that Commissioner Terzo return the radio he has for the special ops team. He said he would get that back to the department.

**Adjournment:**

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by D.Pfersick and seconded by S.Goodman. The meeting was adjourned by common consent at 8:41 pm

**Respectfully submitted**
**Kitty Stappenbeck, Secretary**