

RIDGE FIRE DISTRICT- BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES OF ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING- JANUARY 13, 2025

Meeting was called to order at 7pm by acting secretary Teresa Anderson with a salute to the flag and a moment of silence.

Present were Commissioners Jeff Campo, P. Pirozzi, B.Brooks, Dave Hellberg Jr,A.Morabito Also present Treasurer Terry Ann Lawton.

Results of the District Election that was held December 10, 2024 have been filed.

Commissioner Morabito was sworn in by Commissioner Campo The Oath of Office was signed and will be forwarded to the Brookhaven Town Clerk. Commissioner Morabito term is from January 1, 2025 to December 31, 2029.

Acting Secretary T.Anderson requested nominations for Chairman of the Board for the year 2025. Commissioner Brooks nominated Commissioner Campo and seconded by Commissioner Morabito the Board was polled all in favor.

Acting Secretary T.Anderson requested nominations for Vice- Chairman of the Board for year 2025. Commissioner Hellberg nominated Commissioner Pirozzi, Commissioner Morabito nominated B.Brooks and seconded by Commissioner Campo. The Board polled and all in favor with Commissioner B.Brooks is Vice Chairman all in favor.

The meeting turned over to Chairman Campo.

Appointments

Motion made by Commissioner Morabito to appoint Teresa Anderson as District Secretary /Deputy Treasurer for year 2025. Commissioner Hellberg seconded the motion. The Board was polled with all in favor.

Motion by Commissioner Pirozzi to appoint Terry Ann Lawton as District Treasurer for year 2025. Commissioner Hellberg seconded the motion. The Board was polled with all in favor.

Motion by Commissioner Brooks to appoint Christopher Ring Esq. as attorney for the Ridge Fire District for the year 2025, Commissioner Hellberg seconded the motion. The Board was polled all in favor. The retainer services is \$12,000, with a hourly rate of \$275.00 per hour for excluded items.

Motion by Commissioner Pirozzi to appoint John Boyd as EMS Coordinator for year 2025.Commissioner Hellberg seconded this motion. The Board was polled with all in favor.

Motion by Commissioner Brooks to appoint Leo Hadzigeorgiou as District Mechanic for the year 2025. Commissioner Hellberg seconded this motion. The Board was polled with all in favor.

Motion by Commissioner Pirozzi to appoint Jose Marmol as Custodian for the year 2025. Commissioner Morabito seconded the motion. The Board was polled with all in favor.

Motion by Commissioner Pirozzi to appoint Luis Diaz as Custodian for the year 2025. Commissioner Hellberg seconded the motion. The Board was polled all in favor.

Motion by Commissioner Hellberg to appoint Louis Kaiser per-diem custodian for the year 2025. Commissioner Pirozzi seconded the motion. The Board polled all in favor.

Motion by Commissioner Brooks to appoint the following full time employees as per civil service titles. Paramedic Steve Blum, Cassandra Lahn, Jennifer Gropper, Tina Gruosso, Danielle Occhiuto, Nicholas Sadowsky, Joanna Guerrero, Zoltan Kiss, and Nicholas Viscusi, E.Ramirez, E.Jacobson. The yearly salaries for these positions will be current contract negotiated with UPSEU. Seconded by Commissioner Hellberg, Board polled all in favor.

Motion by Commissioner Pirozzi seconded by Commissioner Brooks to appoint the following per diems as per their Civil Service titles. EMT-Paramedic Jade Andracchi, K.Cacace, Joseph Lesnick, Gina Migligonico, Nicholas Pobat, Erik Zalewski, Trevor Malloy, B.Brown, E.Elkowitz, J.Williams.

Board approves the following 12 paid holidays for non-union full time employees. New Years Day, Martin Luther King Day, Presidents Day, Memorial Day, Juneteeth , Independence Day, Labor Day, Columbus Day, Veterans Day, Thanksgiving Day, Day after Thanksgiving, and Christmas Day.

The Ridge Fire District offers all employees the opportunity to join the New York State Employee Retirement System upon completion of probationary period.
All full time employees are offered health insurance thru NYSHIP if they chose.

Motion by Commissioner Pirozzi to appoint Winston Lee as NYS Instructor Coordinator for 2025. Commissioner Hellberg seconded the motion. The Board polled with all in favor. The rate of pay is \$55.00 a hour.

Motion by Commissioner Pirozzi to appoint Jones and Little as Accountant for the Fire District. Commissioner Hellberg seconded the motion. The Board polled in favor.

Administrative

Motion by Commissioner Brooks to designate Capital One as Districts Official Depository. J.P.Chase Bank and Depository Trust Corp, as paying agents for bonds, Flushing Bank as EMS fund, seconded by Commissioner Hellberg. The Board was polled all in favor.

Attorney Christopher Ring published in Newsday on November 20, 2024 notice of the Organizational Meeting to be held January 13, 2025 at 7pm, with the regular meeting to follow at 7:30PM.

Motion by Commissioner Pirozzi to hold regular monthly meetings of the Ridge Fire District on the second Monday of each month at 7:30pm. If said meeting falls on holiday, the Board can move said meeting to the following Tuesday or cancel same. The Board will hold a second meeting on the fourth Sunday of each month at 9am, seconded by Commissioner Hellberg. The Board was polled with all in favor. Attorney Christopher Ring will publish yearly meetings in Newsday. Meetings of the Board of Fire Commissioners will be held at headquarters 20 Frances Mooney Pond in Ridge in Commissioners meeting room at this location. The Board of Fire Commissioners reserves the right to hold meetings electronically if a public health situation requires same in accordance with NYS Executive Law.

Motion by Commissioner Brooks to continue membership in the following organizations for the year 2024 and paid dues as statements received. Associations of Fire Districts of State of New York, Suffolk County Fire Districts Association, Brookhaven Town Fire Districts Association, Long Island Fire Districts Legislative Committee, Suffolk County Fire District Managers Association, NYS Association of Fire Chiefs Association, Brookhaven Town Fire Chiefs Associations, Brookhaven Town Volunteer Firemans Museum, and the National Fire Protection Association for the District and Chiefs Office, Long Island Emergency Vehicle Technicians Association, Seconded by Commissioner Hellberg Board polled all in favor.

Motion by Commissioner Brooks to accept all rules and policies in place by Ridge Fire District for year 2025, with amendments throughout the year. Seconded by Commissioner Pirozzi. Board polled with all in favor.

Motion by Commissioner Morabito to accept District mileage reimbursement rate at the current Federal rate. If Federal rate increases or decreases, the District will adjust it accordingly. Seconded by Commissioner Brooks. Board polled with all in favor.

Motion by Commissioner Brooks to set budget hearing for 2025 on October 21, 2025, the third Tuesday of October. Seconded by Commissioner Morabito. Board polled with all in favor.

Motion by Commissioner Morabito to enter into contract with the Suffolk County Board of Election for use of buildings. Seconded by Commissioner Hellberg. Board polled all in favor.

Motion by Commissioner Pirozzi to enter into contract with Brookhaven Town Highway Department for salt and sand for the year 2025. Seconded by Commissioner Brooks. Board polled all in favor.

Motion to accept Island Tech for the year 2025 made by Commissioner Hellberg seconded by Commissioner Pirozzi. Board polled all in favor.

Departmental

Secretary T. Anderson received letter from Ridge Fire Department with results of their nominations for the Chiefs Office for 2025.

Chief of Department- Kevin Leedham, Commissioner Hellberg motions to accept, seconded by Commissioner Pirozzi. Board polled all in favor.

First Assistant Chief- Daniel Brooks, Commissioner Pirozzi motion to accept. Seconded by Commissioner Hellberg. Board polled with all in favor.

Second Assistant Chief- Morabito, Commissioner Hellberg motions to accept, seconded by Commissioner Pirozzi. Board polled with all in favor.

Motion made by Commissioner Brooks to accept the following Ridge Fire Department members who reside outside District, M. Barone, R. Berard, J. Demeo, D. Evans, R. Guarisco, A. House, S. Lenz, W. Schwabe, J. Mirando III.

These members will be accepted with the understanding that the Board will not accept more than 10 percent of membership residing out of District, with the exception being those members who join or have joined as rescue only. Seconded by Commissioner Pirozzi. Board polled with all in favor.

Motion by Commissioner Pirozzi to adjourn at 7:30pm seconded by Commissioner Morabito all in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Teresa Anderson
District Secretary