

**ORCHARD PARK BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER MEETING**

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners of the Orchard Park Fire District was held on October 8, 2024 at 7:00 PM in the meeting room of the District Offices, 4222 S. Taylor Road. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Gill and began with the pledge to the flag.

Roll Call:

| | | | |
|---------------|-------------------|----------------|--------------------|
| Chairman: | Gregory Gill | Dist. Chief: | Jay Knavel |
| Commissioner: | Richard Mrugalski | Treasurer: | Nick Enser |
| Commissioner: | Mark Szczepanik | Attorney: | Michael Chelus |
| Commissioner: | William Hanrahan | Secretary: | Roberta Buczkowski |
| Commissioner: | Robert Benning | Administrator: | Monica Theilmann |

Fire Company Officers Present:

| | |
|-----------------------|----------------|
| Orchard Park Chief: | Rob Germano |
| Windom Assist. Chief: | Jacob Huff |
| Hillcrest Chief: | Ron Hendershot |

Others Present:

| | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Chris Pieri, Facility Manager | Dave Stromecki, Brown & Stromecki Insurance |
| Wilhelm Albrecht, Orchard Park | Christina Davenport, Hillcrest |
| David K. Jensen, Orchard Park | Howard Hoffman, Jr. Windom |
| Robert Baun, Windom | Jon Gill, Hillcrest |

Approval of Minutes of the Meeting:

Motion made by Commissioner Mrugalski , seconded by Commissioner Benning that the minutes of the September meeting be approved. All in favor; motion carried.

Comments from the floor (Public):

No one spoke

Communications and Action on Same:

1. Letter from Orchard Park Firefighter Madison Stewart re: resignation. See new membership and removals.
2. Email from Orchard Park Chief re: out of service for Firefighter Slawomir Glowczynski.
3. Letter from Hillcrest Fire Company re: use of Hillcrest Hall December 14, 2024. Motion made by Commissioner Benning, seconded by Commissioner Hanrahan regarding same. All in favor; motion carried.
4. Letter from Hillcrest Fire Company re: use of Hillcrest Hall November 28, 2024. Motion made by Commissioner Benning, seconded by Commissioner Hanrahan regarding same. All in favor; motion carried

Treasurer's Report:

The annual budget meeting will be held next Tuesday, October 15, 2024.
The monthly cash flow report is attached to the file copy.

Motion made by Commissioner Mrugalski, seconded by Commissioner Benning to accept the Treasurer's report. All in favor; motion carried.

District Chief Jay Knavel:

1. Monthly reports read. Attached to file copy
2. October is Fire Prevention month so the companies will be visiting the various schools.
3. District Drill will be October 21st at Chestnut Ridge
4. There have been some questions regarding the drills. Per the Board, for this year only 5&5, 8&2 or 2&8 will be accepted.

Orchard Park Chief, Rob Germano:

No report

Windom Assist. Chief, Jacob Huff:

No report

Hillcrest Chief, Ron Hendershot:

1. Hillcrest will be hosting a Pump Operator Course starting October 29th every Tuesday and Thursday through the end of November.

District EMS

No report

NEW MEMBERSHIPS AND REMOVALS:

*****Orchard Park*****

Motion made by Commissioner Szczepanik, seconded by Commissioner Hanrahan to remove Madison Stewart from the District Rolls. All in favor; motion carried.

Motion made by Commissioner Szczepanik, seconded by Commissioner Hanrahan to remove Slavic Glowczynski from the District Rolls. All in favor; motion carried.

*****Hillcrest*****

None

*****Windom*****

None

COMMISSIONER'S REPORTS

Commissioner Mrugalski:

1. Motion made by Commissioner Mrugalski, seconded by Commissioner Hanrahan to purchase One Hundred Forty (140) pairs of BDU pants not to exceed \$5,000.00. All in favor; motion carried
2. Due to some questions by the Orchard Park Town Assessor, A motion by Commissioner Mrugalski, seconded by Commissioner Benning: On March 12, 2024 at a Public Hearing, The Board adopted a Resolution to authorize an exemption for property tax. Motion made by Commissioner Mrugalski, seconded by Commissioner Benning under Real Property Tax Law §466-a, The Board authorizes an exemption of 10% of the assessed value of the residence of a volunteer firefighter. All in favor; motion carried. There is a one time \$200.00 refund instead of the 10% exemption.

3. The Board has discussed the feasibility of replacing Windom Hall completely or renovating the existing hall. Motion made by Commissioner Mrugalski, seconded by Commissioner Benning to receive proposals from Consulting Firms to remodel/replace Windom Hall. All in favor; motion carried. Would like the President, Chief and Commissioner Hanrahan to meet to discuss.

Commissioner Szczepanik:

1. OP1 will be wrapped up next week and should be in service by the end of the year.
2. Have a request from South Davis Elementary School to hold a fund raiser meat raffle at Central. The Orchard Park Fire Company has turned the decision over to the Board. Motion made by Commissioner Szczepanik, seconded by Commissioner Hanrahan to approve. All in favor, Commissioner Mrugalski Nay, Motion carried.

Commissioner Hanrahan:

1. Have received information that Windom may be receiving a \$100,000.00 grant from Assemblyman Burke and will purchase a vehicle. Motion made by Commissioner Hanrahan, seconded by Commissioner Benning to accept grant, if awarded, and to transfer said vehicle to the District. All in favor; motion carried.

Commissioner Benning:

1. Motion made by Commissioner Benning, seconded by Commissioner Hanrahan to outfit H5 with the appropriate lights, radios etc. All in favor; motion carried.

Commissioner Gill:

No report

Attorney Chelus:

1. Still waiting on the County to approve the repeater to go on the tower at Chestnut Ridge. Will be reaching out to the County Attorney.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

None

PRESENTATION OF BILLS AND ACTION ON THE SAME:

Motion made by Commissioner Mrugalski, seconded by Commissioner Benning that the bills be paid as presented for a total of \$. All in favor; motion carried.

Motions Made:

Motion made by Commissioner Mrugalski, seconded by Commissioner Hanrahan to purchase One Hundred Forty (140) pairs of BDU pants not to exceed \$5,000.00. All in favor; motion carried.

Due to some questions by the Orchard Park Town Assessor, A motion by Commissioner Mrugalski, seconded by Commissioner Benning: On March 12, 2024 at a Public Hearing, The Board adopted a Resolution to authorize an exemption for property tax. Motion made by Commissioner Mrugalski, seconded by Commissioner Benning under Real Property Tax Law §466-a, The Board authorizes an exemption of 10% of the assessed value of the residence of a volunteer firefighter. All in favor; motion carried. There is a one-time \$200.00 refund instead of the 10% exemption.

The Board has discussed the feasibility of replacing Windom Hall completely or renovating the existing hall. Motion made by Commissioner Mrugalski, seconded by Commissioner Benning to receive proposals from Consulting Firms to remodel/replace Windom Hall. All in favor; motion carried. Would like the President, Chief and Commissioner Hanrahan to meet to discuss.

Have a request from South Davis Elementary School to hold a fund raiser meat raffle at Central. The Orchard Park Fire Company has turned the decision over to the Board. Motion made by Commissioner Szczepanik, seconded by Commissioner Hanrahan to approve. All in favor, Commissioner Mrugalski Nay, Motion carried.

Have received information that Windom may be receiving a \$100,000.00 grant from Assemblyman Burke and will purchase a vehicle. Motion made by Commissioner Hanrahan, seconded by Commissioner Benning to accept grant, if awarded, and to transfer said vehicle to the District. All in favor; motion carried.

Motion made by Commissioner Benning, seconded by Commissioner Hanrahan to outfit H5 with the appropriate lights, radios etc. All in favor; motion carried.

MEETING ADJOURNED:

There being no further business to come before this Board, motion made by Commissioner Mrugalski, seconded by Commissioner Benning that the meeting be adjourned. All in favor; motion carried.

Meeting adjourned 7:21 PM

Respectfully submitted, Roberta Buczkowski, Secretary