

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

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners of the Orchard Park Fire District was held on September 9, 2025 at 7:00 PM in the meeting room of the District Offices, 4222 S. Taylor Road. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Szczepanik and began with the pledge to the flag.

Roll Call:

Chairman:	Mark Szczepanik	Dist. Chief:	Jay Knavel
Commissioner:	William Hanrahan	Treasurer:	Nick Enser
Commissioner:	Robert Benning	Attorney:	Michael Chelus
Commissioner:	Edmund Jensen Jr.	Secretary:	Roberta Buczkowski
Commissioner:	Frank Wierzbowski		

Fire Company Officers Present:

Orchard Park Chief: Rob Germano
Hillcrest Chief: Ron Hendershot

Others Present:

Dennis Bosley, Orchard Park	Larry Brand, Hillcrest
Bob Baun, Windom	Monica Thielmann, District Administrator
Robert Sheehan, Orchard Park	Nathan Zilak, Orchard Park

Approval of Minutes of the Meeting:

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

Comments from the floor (Public):

Larry Brand, Hillcrest, Would like to know if the elevator at Hillcrest, which has been out of service for about a year, is slated to be repaired. Per Commissioner Hanrahan, new contract is being signed and the facilities manager is working on this problem.

Communications and Action on Same:

1. Letter from Windom Fire Company re: Use of Windom hall September 20, 2025. Motion made by Commissioner Jensen, seconded by Commissioner Hanrahan regarding same. All in favor; motion carried.
2. Letter from Windom Fire Company re: Use of Windom Hall on Wednesdays. Motion made by Commissioner Benning, seconded by Commissioner Hanrahan regarding same. All in favor; motion carried.
3. Letter from Orchard Park Fire Company re: use of OP Central November 5, 12, and 19, 2025. Motion made by Commissioner Jensen, seconded by Commissioner Hanrahan regarding same. All in favor; motion carried.
4. Four (4) Applications from Orchard Park Fire Company. See new memberships and removals.
5. Packet from EC Department of Planning re: changes to the new stadium. Filed.

Treasurer's Report:

1. Motion made by Commissioner Jensen, seconded by Commissioner Benning to adopt the new credit card policy. All in favor; motion carried.

District Chief Jay Knavel:

1. Monthly reports read. Attached to file copy.
2. District drill will be Monday, September 15, 2025 and will be the last live fire of the year.
3. Hose tests results will be on the server by the end of the week.
4. There will be a 9-11 event at the stadium.
5. The incentive sheet will be updated soon.
6. Will be a conversion from NIFERS to NERIS very soon.

Orchard Park Chief, Rob Germano:

No report

Hillcrest Chief, Ron Hendershot:

No report

NEW MEMBERSHIPS AND REMOVALS:*****Orchard Park*****

Motion made by Commissioner Hanrahan, seconded by Commissioner Benning to remove John Phillips from the District Rolls. All in favor; motion carried.

Motion made by Commissioner Hanrahan, seconded by Commissioner Benning to accept John Newell to the District Rolls. All in favor; motion carried.

Motion made by Commissioner Jensen, seconded by Commissioner Wierzbowski to accept Robert Sheehan to the District Rolls. All in favor; motion carried.

Motion made by Commissioner Benning, seconded by Commissioner Benning to accept Tara Scolese to the District Rolls. All in favor; motion carried.

Motion made by Commissioner Hanrahan, seconded by Commissioner Benning to accept John Nathan Zilak to the District Rolls. All in favor; motion carried.

*****Hillcrest*****

None

*****Windom*****

None

COMMISSIONER'S REPORTS**Commissioner Hanrahan:**

1. Motion made by Commissioner Hanrahan, seconded by Commissioner Benning to contract with Tango Tango for \$3000.00 per year. This is an app for the phone in place of the pagers. All in favor; motion carried.
2. Motion made by Commissioner Hanrahan, seconded by Commissioner Benning to send Administrator Thielmann to the NYS District Association conference not to exceed \$2000.00. All in favor; motion carried.
3. Motion made by Commissioner Hanrahan, seconded by Commissioner Wierzbowski to join the NFPA Standard for \$1300.00 per year that includes up to ten (10) users. All in favor; motion carried.
4. Motion made by Commissioner Hanrahan, seconded by Commissioner Benning to accept the final proposal for the Windom project. All in favor; motion carried.

Commissioner Benning:

No report

Commissioner Jensen:

No report

Commissioner Wierzbowski

No report

Commissioner Szczepanik:

No report.

Attorney Chelus:

1. Motion made by Commissioner Hanrahan, seconded by Commissioner Benning to override the tax cap as outlined below.

RESOLUTION TO OVERRIDE REAL PROPERTY TAX CAP

WHEREAS, the board of Fire Commissioners of the Orchard Park Fire District (The Board) must adopt a proposed budget for 2026 which included an estimate of fund balances in preparation for the annual fire district budget hearing and

WHEREAS, the Board did adopt its proposed budget in preparation for the budget hearing, and

WHEREAS, the Board has determined that the fire district for 2026 needs to exceed the real property tax cap established pursuant to General Municipal Law §3-c for that budget year due to financial considerations discussed by the Board at its meeting in preparation for the budget, and

WHEREAS, the proposed budget for 2026 calls for a real property tax levy that will exceed real property tax cap which allows a tax levy no more than 2%, and

WHEREAS, pursuant to General Municipal Law §3-c, the fire district may adopt a budget that requires a tax levy that is greater than the tax levy limit for the coming fiscal year only if the Board of Fire commissioners first enacts a resolution, approved by a vote of sixty percent of the total voting power of such body, to override such limit for such coming fiscal year only.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Fire Commissioner approves this resolution to override the real property tax cap for the 2026 budget only, in order to permit an annual real property tax levy that will exceed the real property tax cap which permits only a 2% increase in said tax levy which will result in a final annual fire district budget in the amount of 5.5 million, and The adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly put to a vote, and, upon roll call, the vote was as follows;

Chairman	Mark Szczepanik
Commissioner	Frank Wierzbowski
Commissioner	William Hanrahan
Commissioner	Edmond Jensen Jr.
Commissioner	Robert Benning

This resolution was thereupon duly declared to have been adopted September 9, 2025

Motion made by Commissioner Hanrahan, seconded by Commissioner Jensen to approve the proposed 2026 budget. All in favor; motion carried.

2. Motion made by Commissioner Hanrahan, seconded by Commissioner Wierzbowski for the annual public budget hearing to take place on Tuesday, October 14, 2025 at 6:45pm. All in favor; motion carried.
3. Motion made by Commissioner Hanrahan, seconded by Commissioner Wierzbowski for the advertisement of the budget hearing. All in favor; motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

None

PRESENTATION OF BILLS AND ACTION ON THE SAME:

Motion made by Commissioner Benning, seconded by Commissioner Wierzbowski that the bills be paid as presented for a total of \$ 103,184.48. All in favor; motion carried.

Motions Made:

Motion made by Commissioner Hanrahan, seconded by Commissioner Benning to override the tax cap as outlined below.

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Motion made by Commissioner Hanrahan, seconded by Commissioner Benning to accept the final proposal for the Windom project. All in favor; motion carried.

MEETING ADJOURNED:

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

Meeting adjourned 7:26PM

Respectfully submitted, Roberta Buczkowski, Secretary