

**ORCHARD PARK BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS  
MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 25, 2026 WORK SESSION**

The work session of the Board of Fire Commissioners of the Orchard Park Fire District was held on February 25, 2026 at 6:30 PM in the board room of the District Offices, 4222 S. Taylor Road.

**Those Present:**

Chairman:	Frank Wierzbowski	Dist. Chief:	Jay Knavel
Commissioner:	William Hanrahan	Treasurer:	Nick Enser
Commissioner:	Robert Benning	Secretary:	Roberta Buczkowski
Commissioner:	Edmund Jensen Jr.	Insurance:	Dave Stromecki
Commissioner:	Mark Szczepanik	Administrator:	Monica Thielemann

Eric Knavel, OPEMS

Jon Gill OPEMS

Tom Barsi, OPEMS

Rob Germano, Orchard Park

Chrissy Warmington, OP Police Dispatch

Greg Bienias, OPEMS

Ron Hendershot, Hillcrest

**Approval of previous work session minutes**

Motion made by Commissioner Benning, seconded by Commissioner Jensen to approve the January 28, 2026 work session minutes. All in favor; motion carried.

**Administrative**

**Monica:** The physicals are going well.  
The classes are going slowly. Will have a report by the end of the week regarding the classes.

The grant was to be turned in today, but the State has extended the deadline until March 11<sup>th</sup>. Will need a point of contact (has to be a commissioner) for Taylor Road to be in the grant.

RedAlert is fixing the FOB issue.

C0 detectors are needed in the bedrooms at EMS. Per Commissioner Benning should order enough for all areas needed.

With regards to Civil Service, if everything is ready on the District side by March then Civil Service will be ready by May.

**Finance**

**Nick:** Went over the ambulance usage with the Auditors.  
Talked with the Payroll Company and they do not need a lot of lead time to move EMS over. Probably May 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Facilities**

**Bob:** Would like to bid out the HVAC maintenance contract. Will get the specs together and have the secretary put the bid in the OP BEE.

**Fleet**

**Mark:** Sanborn will be purchasing the old OP6 at the next board meeting for \$60,000.00  
The new suburban will be here in about three (3) weeks  
W2 is now \$112,000.00

**IT**

**Bienias:** Windom is scheduled for the switch over to the new phones. Central and Taylor Road next.

### **Insurance**

**Dave S.:** Still having difficulty with the \$5million dollar umbrella policy. Have had many declines.  
**Discussion followed.**

### **Operations**

**Jay:** The overall memberships looks good  
Hillcrest gear is here.  
March 21, 2026 is the EC Fireman's Association Dinner in which Zack Restorff will be honored. Motion made by Commissioner Hanrahan, seconded by Commissioner Szczepanik to pay the cost of \$40.00 for those who would like to attend. All in favor; motion carried.  
The batteries in the packs all need replacing.  
Need to purchase CO meters for all EMS ambulances.  
The new consol in the police dispatch station has some major problems. Will be messaging all officers regarding the same.

### **Discussion followed.**

The Duty Shift meeting went well

### **Discussion followed.**

### **Operations**

**Eric:** Sent out the CON Transfer and got a message that it was received. Will most likely not acted on until May.  
Will be testing the CCUD Life pack 35 in a trial program.  
Trying to find out if EMS can merge their ESO with the district.

### **General Commissioner Discussion**

- **Ed:** With regards to the snowplow contract. The district will be holding 50% of the rest of the payment until the snowplow damage has been corrected.
- **Mark:** Nothing else to report
- **Bob:** The circulator pump for the heated pad at Central needs replacement at a cost of \$4,000.00
- **Bill:** The NYS Dept. of Labor showed up to inspect the boiler at Windom for a cost of \$75.00.

### **Discussion followed.**

Will be putting Taylor Rd. renovations on hold and will be focusing on Windom. The next step is the boring samples for the soil content at a cost of \$10,950.00  
Motion made by Commissioner Benning, seconded by Commissioner Szczepanik for the soil samples at a cost of \$10,950.00. All in favor; motion carried.

- **Frank:** Nothing else to report.

### **Discussion on the cancer screening for 1<sup>st</sup> responders.**

**Executive Session:** Motion made by Commissioner Szczepanik, seconded by Commissioner Hanrahan to go to executive session. All in favor; motion carried. Executive session began at 7:25pm.

Motion made by Commissioner Benning, seconded by Commissioner Szczepanik to end executive session and resume regular work session. All in favor; motion carried. Regular session resumed at 7:30pm

There being no further business motion made by Commissioner Benning, seconded by Commissioner Szczepanik to end the work session. All in favor; motion carried.

Work Session ended at 7:30PM

Respectfully submitted

Roberta Buczkowski, Secretary

APPROVED