

**APPROVED**

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**THE PITTSFORD FIRE DISTRICT  
May 9, 2024**

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**Regular Meeting**

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Present: Commissioners Cline, Khalil, Lusk, Schenkel, Wallace, Whelan, and Willard  
Absent: None

Also present: Assistant Chief Cline, Administrator Ockenden, and Treasurer Clouser

Commissioner Wallace called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence for fallen first responders and men and women in the armed forces serving around the world.

Chairman Wallace opened a PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER ADOPTION OF A PARTIAL TAX EXEMPTION PURSUANT TO REAL PROPERTY TAX LAW SECTION 466-K

The adoption would enable a reduction in real estate taxes for residents as an incentive to offer service to their community as volunteer firefighters. There was no public comment during the public hearing.

Commissioner Schenkel moved, seconded by Commissioner Lusk, to close the public hearing.

*The motion carried by an Aye vote of commissioners present*

Commissioner Schenkel moved, seconded by Commissioner Cline, to adopt a resolution:

**RESOLUTION  
TO ADOPT PARTIAL TAX EXEMPTION  
PURSUANT TO  
REAL PROPERTY TAX LAW SECTION 466-A**

At a duly called meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners for the Pittsford Fire District (the "District") held on March 14, 2024, at the Pittsford Fire Station #1, at which time a quorum of the Commissioners was present.

On a motion of Commissioner Lusk seconded by Commissioner Schenkel the following Resolution was adopted:

**WHEREAS**, the District's Board of Fire Commissioners wishes to adopt the provisions of Section 466-a of the Real Property Tax Law which would grant a partial exemption from fire district taxes for real property situated in the District and owned by eligible enrolled members of an

incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department or incorporated volunteer ambulance service or by such enrolled member and spouse residing in any county; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Fire Commissioners duly held a public hearing on May 9, 2024, with respect to the question of whether the District should adopt a resolution providing the partial exemption authorized by Section 466-a of the Real Property Tax Law.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:**

1. That that the Board of Fire Commissioners, after having given the public an opportunity to be heard at a public hearing, hereby adopts the provisions of Section 466-a of the Real Property Tax Law, and hereby provides to eligible enrolled members of an incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department or incorporated voluntary ambulance service or such eligible enrolled member and spouse residing within the District, a partial tax exemption from fire district taxes, to the extent of 10% of the assessed value of the property, provided the following requirements are met:
  - a. The enrolled member must reside in the territory served by the District;
  - b. The property must be the primary residence of the enrolled member;
  - c. The property is used exclusively for residential purposes, provided however, that in the event any portion of such property is not used exclusively for the applicant's residence but is used for other purposes, such portion shall be subject to taxation and the remaining portion only shall be entitled to the exemption provided by this section; and
  - d. The enrolled member has been certified by the authority having jurisdiction to have served at least two (2) years of active service.
2. That each incorporated volunteer fire company or fire department within the District shall file a notice annually with the Assessor of each Town in Monroe County where the District is located, certifying its enrolled members with two (2) or more years of service, and listing the number of years of service served by each such enrolled member together with the enrolled member's residence address. The certification shall provide the required information as of the taxable status date for each year (*i.e.*, March 1).
3. That the Board of Fire Commissioners further adopts the provision of such law that grants eligible enrolled members of an incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department or incorporated voluntary ambulance service who accrue more than twenty (20) years of active service, as certified by the authority having jurisdiction, the 10% exemption, as set forth above, for the remainder of his/her life as long as his/her primary residence is located within Monroe County.
4. That the Board of Fire Commissioners further adopts the provisions of such law that grants a continuation or reinstatement of such pre-existing exemption for the un-remarried spouse of an enrolled member of the fire department or ambulance service who is killed in the line of duty upon the following conditions:
  - a. The un-remarried spouse is certified by the authority having jurisdiction as the un-remarried spouse of the volunteer firefighter or volunteer ambulance worker killed in the line of duty;

- b. The deceased volunteer firefighter or deceased volunteer ambulance worker had been an enrolled member of the fire department or incorporated voluntary ambulance service for at least five (5) years; and
  - c. The deceased volunteer firefighter or deceased volunteer ambulance worker had been receiving the exemption prior to his or her death.
5. That the Board of Fire Commissioners further adopts the provisions of such law that grants a continuation or reinstatement of such pre-existing exemption for the un-remarried spouse of a deceased enrolled member of the fire department under the following conditions:
  - a. The un-remarried spouse is certified by the authority having jurisdiction as the un-remarried spouse of the deceased enrolled member of the fire department or incorporated voluntary ambulance service;
  - b. The deceased volunteer firefighter or deceased volunteer ambulance worker was an enrolled member for at least twenty (20) years; and
  - c. The deceased volunteer firefighter or deceased volunteer ambulance worker has been receiving the exemption prior to his or her death.
6. That it shall be the responsibility of each eligible enrolled member or un-remarried spouse of a deceased eligible enrolled member of an incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department or incorporated volunteer ambulance service seeking such exemption to file any required application for such exemption with the Assessor before the taxable status date as may be required by the Assessor.
7. That this partial tax exemption shall apply to assessment rolls prepared on the basis of taxable status dates occurring on or after January 1, 2025.

*The motion carried by an Aye vote of commissioners present*

#### **Assistant Chief's Report**

- Reported 290 Calls Year to date, A serious accident occurred at Oak Hill Country Club in which two men were killed. A search for a missing person ended in recovery of the deceased.
- Recommended approval of apparatus operators
- A trial of BRYX response software will be initiated on or about June 1<sup>st</sup>.

Commissioner Lusk moved, seconded by Commissioner Schenkel, to approve operators for apparatus as they had successfully completed mandated training:

ATV 3816: Firefighters Khalil, Hinkle, and K. Cline.

Squad 387: Firefighters Frazier and A. Crumb

*The motion carried by an Aye vote of commissioners present. Commissioners Cline and Khalil abstained from voting on their approvals.*

#### **Administrator's Report**

- Security cameras to be configured for access by the Sheriff's Office are in process.
- Monroe County expects to complete their purchase of Engine 382 soon.
- Liquor Liability coverage can be added to district insurance at a nominal cost. The board consensus was to add the coverage, and to ask the fire department to absorb the cost
- Recommended the surplus of equipment.
- New Station Attendants will begin work soon

### **Approval of Minutes**

Commissioner Schenkel moved, seconded by Commissioner Khalil, the board approved the minutes of the April 11th regular meeting as amended.

*The motion carried by an Aye vote of commissioners present. Commissioner Lusk abstained as he was not present at the meeting.*

### **Commissioner Cline Report**

-Attended the recent FDIC conference. There were many topics of interest.

-Work to refine a policy for use of the station 2 meeting room is ongoing.

### **Commissioner Khalil Report**

-Reviewed options to repair the roof of the carriage house. It was determined that using a bronze-colored metal in the repair would be the most economical and durable.

Commissioner Khalil moved, seconded by Commissioner Cline, the board approved the repair of the carriage house roof at a cost not to exceed \$10,000.00.

*The motion carried by an Aye vote of commissioners present*

Commissioner Khalil moved, seconded by Commissioner Cline, the board approved the surplus of landscaping items and refrigerators that were obsolete, beyond repair, or of no further value to the district.

*The motion carried by an Aye vote of commissioners present*

### **Commissioner Lusk Report**

-Preliminary discussions with the Village of Pittsford are occurring regarding the proposed resubdivision of properties adjacent to station 1.

-Discussed options for future disposition of parcels.

-Firefighter Hyland is working on maintenance issues with the antique engine

-Oak Hill Country Club management was very appreciative of the professionalism displayed by the fire department during the recent fatal vehicle accident on their property.

### **Commissioner Schenkel Report**

-A committee will be formed to review Requests for Proposals from architects regarding the disposition of parcels adjacent to station 1.

### **Commissioner Whelan Report**

-Stated that fire apparatus pricing has risen substantially and that the district replacement budget must be adjusted to reflect future acquisition costs. Administrator Ockenden has obtained projections of future apparatus costs.

-A meeting with ISO will be held on June 7<sup>th</sup> to review the district ISO insurance classification.

### **Commissioner Willard Report**

-An issue with firefighters being notified of tax implications for LOSAP funds has been resolved.

-At a recent meeting of county fire district officers, the current troubling state of the EMS system was discussed.

### **Commissioner Wallace Report**

-The funds from the New York State grant for air-pak acquisition have been received.

### **Communications**

-None

### **Old Business**

-None

### **New Business**

-None

### **Treasurers Report**

-The Treasurer submitted a monthly financial report and a listing of audited invoices for payment.

-The Treasurer stated that the apparatus replacement schedule budget needs to be refreshed annually due to the large increases in apparatus costs.

Commissioner Whelen moved, seconded by Commissioner Schenkel, to approve the acceptance of the New York State grant and to transfer the funds from the General Fund to the Capital Equipment Reserve Fund.

*The motion carried by an Aye vote of commissioners present*

Commissioner Schenkel moved, seconded by Commissioner Wallace, to approve the Treasurers Report for April 2024.

*The motion carried by an Aye vote of commissioners present*

Commissioner Schenkel moved, seconded by Commissioner Wallace, to approve the audited invoices as submitted with the addition of invoices from MRB Group in the amount of \$6,356.30 and Exodus in the amount of \$75.00.

*The motion carried by an Aye vote of commissioners present*

Commissioner Lusk moved, seconded by Commissioner Schenkel, to recess to Executive Session to discuss matters of personnel.

*The motion carried by an Aye vote of commissioners present and the meeting recessed at 7:53 p.m.*

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Commissioner Schenkel moved, seconded by Commissioner Khalil, to reconvene from Executive Session.

*The motion carried by an Aye vote of commissioners present and the meeting reconvened at 8:25 p.m.*

Commissioner Schenkel moved, seconded by Commissioner Lusk, to approve an adjustment to the compensation of an employee.

*The motion carried by an Aye vote of commissioners present.*

Having no further business to discuss, Commissioner Willard moved, seconded by Commissioner Schenkel, to adjourn the meeting.

*The motion carried by an Aye vote of commissioners present and the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted,  
Edwin R. Jeffries, Secretary