

**TOWN OF CLAYTON FIRE DISTRICT
MEETING MINUTES
March 8, 2023 at 7:00 PM
Clayton Meeting Room**

Public Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call of Board Members/Affirmation of Quorum:

Commissioner's Present: Justin Taylor, Ray Lowe, Scott Johnson, Hal Matthews, Bob Haver, Jacob Angus, Luci LaPierre (Sec/Treas). **Absent:** Jeff Dickey

Others Present: District Chief Josh Reome, Deputy District Chief Jarod Wagoner, Clayton Station Asst Chief Corey Dorchester, Depauville Station Captain Larry Girard, Ethan Patchen

Public Meeting on Volunteer Firefighter Real Property Tax Exemption-Commissioner Taylor reviewed the details of the exemption and answered the public's questions.

Public Comments on Volunteer Firefighter Real Property Tax Exemption

Conclusion of Public Comments on Volunteer Firefighter Real Property Tax Exemption

Close Public Hearing on Volunteer Firefighter Real Property Tax Exemption-Motion to close public hearing at 7:10 made by Commissioner Johnson, seconded by Commissioner Lowe. Carried.

Regular Meeting called to order at 7:10 pm

Resolution 2023-1 Volunteer Firefighter Real Property Tax Exemption. Motion made by Commissioner Lowe to adopt Resolution 2023-1, seconded by Commissioner Matthews and put to roll call vote. Carried.

Agenda Amendments-none

Approval of Minutes Motion made by Commissioner Haver to approve minutes from February 15, 2023, seconded by Commissioner Angus. Carried.

Approval of Abstract –Motion made by Commissioner Johnson to approve the resolution to pay abstract with additions, seconded by Commissioner Angus. Carried

Financial Reports - Treasurer

Monthly Financial Update & Reports for February 2023 included in board packets. AUD submitted. Copy emailed to commissioners 2/23/2023.

Correspondence-none

District Chief's Report

12 calls in February

Solar readings 3/3/2023 (108797)

Training Report incl Sexual Harassment

- First Responders Program discussed regarding training & equipment. Motion made by Commissioner Taylor to support Chief Reome pursuing a first responder program and work out logistics with local EMS provider and request reciprocal support from them, seconded by Commissioner Johnson. Aye-Commissioners Taylor, Johnson, Matthews, Haver & Lowe. Abstain-Commissioner Angus.
- In-house training discussed.
- Larry held OSHA Training in Depauville-30+ attended.
- Bailout Training held in Cape Vincent-17 attended.

- Sexual Harassment for Chiefs and Supervisors
- RIT equipment training
- Two attending BIFO Training in Cape Vincent
- Three going to Ice Rescue Training
- Flash Over Simulator Training being offered in Three Mile Bay. Charge is \$125.
- CPR course in Clayton 4/16/23 @ 11 am

Apparatus Updates: Report given to commissioners.

Purchase Requests:

1. Personnel Accountability System (A5136)-Qty: 1-IMS Alliance \$1061.86; American Trademark Co \$2094.36 (for 64 active members) Motion made by Commissioner Matthews to purchase from IMS Alliance, seconded by Commissioner Haver. Carried
2. Hose (A5134)-Qty: 17-Jerome Fire Equip \$2961.40; Fire Safety USA \$3384.10 Motion made by Commissioner Angus to purchase from Jerome, seconded by Commissioner Jonson. Carried

Training mileage reimbursement-Two members going to BIFO in Cape Vincent and under age 18, therefore can not take pickup. Motion made by Commissioner Angus to have trainees carpool and district will reimburse one for mileage, seconded by Commissioner Johnson. Carried.

Jarod demonstrated new light just received for fire police.

Personnel-Informal meeting on suspension of firefighter (executive session)

Policies

1. Communications Policy-tabled
2. Training Policy-tabled
3. Mileage Reimbursement Policy (Cell Phone)-Motion made by Commissioner Johnson to increase the reimbursement to \$100.00 to cover mileage/cellphone reimbursement, seconded by Commissioner Angus. Carried.
4. Rules & Regulations v5-Jake Angus-Motion made by Commissioner Johnson to Accept Rules & Regulation v5, seconded by Commissioner Haver. Carried.
5. Secretary to the District Chief Job Duties & Responsibilities-tabled

Use of Building

Clayton-list submitted

Depauville Hall-list submitted

Use of Building will no longer be discussed at meetings unless there is a need.

Old Business

1. Grants-Justin Taylor-nothing to report
2. 14-1-2 Replacement Committee Update-Josh Reome-nothing to report
3. Gutters RFP-Clayton Station-nothing to report.
4. Doors-Surge protectors-nothing to report
5. Depauville Station Committee-Board will be setting up a "field trip" to tour Steve Dorr's new building on Route 12 possibly 3/19/23
6. Workplace Violence, Harassment and Sexual Harassment Training-Ray Lowe-she is working on dates available
7. 14-6-2-Scott Johnson-reported on company in Canada interested
8. 14-1-3-Insurance Claim-in process

New Business

1. Teams vs Zoom-Ethan/Josh-Suggested to end subscription to Zoom and use Teams. Logistics will be worked out.
2. Phone Systems-Ethan Patchen-proposed an upgraded communications system for the 3 buildings. Suggesting VOIP phones using existing cabling in buildings. 1:1 replacement plus phone in truck bay cost is \$4,174.00 for all equipment wholesale pricing. Westelcom invoice would be reduced 56%. Chief says we can move \$2000.00 from pagers as they have been fixing existing pagers. Motion made Commissioner Johnson to approve purchasing system as presented at \$4,174.00 pending understanding that Fort Drum Regional Health Authority is a regional authorized purchasing entity, seconded by Commissioner Matthews. Carried.

Motion made by Commissioner Johnson to go into executive session at 9:00 pm to discuss a personnel matter, seconded by Commissioner Angus, Carried.

Present: Commissioners, secretary, and Matt Bell

Purpose to discuss suspension of Matt Bell.

Matt presented his case to the board. An email was received by the chief from Matt's healthcare provider and read to the board.

Matt was excused from the session while the board and Chief discussed disciplinary action.

Matt was invited back into the meeting along with Kristie Gamble for the board's decision:

Suspension stands for 90 days (though 5/11/2023) from fire operations and property. Matt will not be allowed at the department banquet during his suspension due to it being held on fire district property. Because Ducks Unlimited is not on District property, he can volunteer for that, which falls during his suspension.

Matt was encouraged to attend AA meetings that are held regularly in the Clayton Meeting Room even while on suspension.

Placed on probation until midnight 12/31/2023 and submit monthly letter from his healthcare provider. If there are any public incidents while representing the fire district or wearing fire district gear, Matt will be immediately dismissed from the fire department.

Motion made by Commissioner Angus to come out of executive session at 9:38 where no action was taken, seconded by Commissioner Johnson, Carried.

Public Comment-none

Other Business-none

Adjourn-Motion made by Commissioner Angus to adjourn at 9:40 pm, seconded by Commissioner Johnson. Carried