

**South Salem Fire District
Commissioner District Meeting Minutes
July 14, 2025**

Amended 8/11/2025

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Bauer @ 7p.m. Pledge of Allegiance led by Chief

Present Commissioners: Amerling, Bauer, Scott, Lombardi, Gossett

District Employees: Treasurer Blum, Property Manager Andros

Department Officers: Chiefs Yorke, Davison, Department President C. Johnson

Absent: Sec. Mansfield

Guest attendees: various department members in attendance

District Minutes- Board reviewed Minutes of June 9th. Amendments- 1) Dist. Property- clarify that rekeying of lock was for District Office only and not for any other parts of building. 2) New Business- re the Polaris- clarify that the Board did discuss the possibility of accepting the item from the department, and the Board was polled at that time. Voting in favor of accepting vehicle (2) - Bauer, Gossett, Opposed to accepting the vehicle (3) – Amerling, Lombardi, Scott
Approval of minutes- June 9th as amended. Motion Lombardi, seconded Gossett. Approved 5-0,

July 14th minutes will be taken by Treasurer in absence of Board Secretary.

Public Comment Period-none

Chiefs Report- Attached and distributed to the Board.

Equipment-

Apparatus- listing of apparatus repairs attached with Chief's report. Annual service done on E. 166, AC and other items repaired on E-167, Annual service done on Res 21.

Training- various drills mentioned on Chief's report, Members completing UTV course- Oliveira, Laquidara

Membership Members dropped- E. Senno, J.Keutmann

Misc- Various items included on Chiefs report including: Annual carnival to be held Aug. 6-9. Chief asking if District will be able to budget for insurance for UTV Polaris should department be able to purchase. Roof Ops and Building Prop being designed and will be presented by Assist. Chief to Department for possible funding. Replacement of SCBA- Chief looking to replace air packs with upgraded model X3 Pro SCBA. Chief has met with AAA to discuss.

Chief indicated that the Board will *need by end of 2025* an upgrade of the siren technology to remove low band paging. He is presently getting quotes but preliminary estimate is \$7,000.

Motion to approve usage of District Property for SSFD Annual Carnival made by Comm. Lombardi, seconded by Comm. Scott- motion passed 5-0.

Discussion of Polaris UTV- estimated insurance cost is \$1,800 per year. Discussion followed, Motion by Comm. Scott, seconded by Comm. Gossett to accept and insure the vehicle contingent upon the Fire Department purchase. Motion passed 5-0.

Treasurer's Report

Bank Statement reconciliations were completed for June. Commissioner Amerling reported that bank statements for May and June were reconciled without exception.

Audit for 2024 has been completed and was filed with NYSOSC by BST.

Treasurer reported account balances, and on July 2025 Budget- Treasurer reviewed YTD line items and gave estimates of spending for balance of 2025 fiscal year.

Approval of Treasurers report by Comm. Lombardi, second by Comm. Bauer, approved 5-0.

Audit of Claims- Claims presented and read by Property Manager Andros. Additional claim for RedMX Alpine Software was presented for an amount of \$8,965.76. Property Manager explained the various Carey & Walsh invoices, and indicated and additional charges were coming to cover the issues with the lower meeting room system. The Sullivan claim will be discussed under Unfinished when the Rear Entry/Patio Project is discussed along with the Jennings invoice.

Motion by Claims approved by Comm. Lombardi, seconded by Comm. Bauer, motion passed 5-0.

District Property Report-

Safety Data sheets completed by Property Manager and Board Secretary.

Building usage- Sept. 6th, (Davison), Sept. 13th (Binns), Sept. 27th (Department)

Building Pending Projects: Patio/Terrace- Engineer proposals- (see unfinished business).

Correspondence:

SSFD- Chief- advising of intent to use property for annual carnival August 6-9.

SSFD- letter indicating members dropped- Senno, Keutmann

NYS Workers' Comp- letter re Wm. Dooley, Forms to be filed C-11, C-240. Letter has been faxed to Niles.

Superior Telephone- annual service contract proposal \$1,520, no action taken.

BST-Final copies received, audit acceptance letter has been returned.

Niles Insurance- email policy A&S Policy rider, VESO endorsement.

Sullivan Architecture- updated plans presented to Comm. Gossett

Administration:

Membership changes- member2 dropped

Insurance- VESO updates- Caviola to be added.

Niles Ins. – Board authorized the Treasurer to sign the renewal on A&S policy due 8/1.

Niles- ESIP Commercial Package renewal has been received and forwarded to all Board members. Estimated renewal premium will be \$66,500 (prior to any additional increase for Polaris vehicle or increased coverages). Comm. Lombardi was concerned that although the policy indicates guaranteed replacement coverage, that it was not sufficient to rebuild firehouse should a major loss occur. He will contact Niles to discuss increasing the Building coverage.

District Policies- no report

Professional Services: none

Unfinished Business:

Patio/Terrace project- Summary of project presented updated scenario to address handicap ramp was presented by Comm. Gossett. There were two scenarios presented, one by architect, and another by M. Davison. Drawings include the need for the existing handicap ramp to connect with patio, and then a small additional walkway to be constructed. Comm. Lombardi reported on items that he felt needed to be addressed and corrected by the contractor.

Motion- Accept concept of revised ramp as proposed by architect based upon sketch dated 7/14/25. Board felt that it was not the District's error in the original plans and liability was discussed. Board wishes to keep the project moving forward and will address liability issues later. Claims related to project, (Sullivan as reported in claims), and Jennings Inc. Progress payment #1 in the amount of \$32,400. Motion to pay Jennings by Comm. Bauer, seconded by Comm. Lombardi, motion to pay passed 5-0. Motion to pay Sullivan \$4,031.46. Motion passed 4-1.

New Business:

2026 Budget- Treasurer presented preliminary draft budget of \$995,000 for next year's budget. Board discussed the necessity and probability of exceeding the 2% tax cap to keep increasing the Reserve fund contributions due to the expense of apparatus. Chief has provided some numbers regarding replacement of air cylinders. Additional numbers will be needed by the August meeting, so a preliminary budget can be adopted in September prior to posting.

Carnival items- Comm. Lombardi reminded the Dept. that the liquor liability policy references server training and that those associated with the carnival should take the training.

Firearms on District property during Carnival- Discussion- Will be handled by President of the Fire Department.

District Property Manager Office and Commissioner room- permission was given to the carnival committee for usage during the carnival.

Commissioner Bauer adjourned the Regular meeting at 8:55

The next regularly scheduled District Meeting is August 11th, 2025.

Neal J. Blum
Treasurer