

**South Salem Fire District  
Commissioner Meeting  
September 8th, 2025**

**Meeting** was called to order at 7pm. Pledge of allegiance led by Chief Yorke.

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

**Department Officers:** Chief Yorke, Assistant Chief Davison, Department President Johnson

**District Employees:** Treasurer Blum, Property Manager Andros, Secretary Mansfield

**Approval of August 11th Regular District Meeting Minutes**

The Board reviewed minutes of August 11th. Approval of minutes - August 11th. Motion Lombardi, seconded Scott, all voted in favor.

**Approval of September 3rd Special District Meeting Minutes**

The Board reviewed minutes of September 3rd. Approval of minutes - September 3rd. Motion Lombardi, seconded Gossett, all voted in favor.

**Chief's Report - attached and distributed to the Board**

**Equipment Requests** - Chief is requesting three pairs of boots for Members Lynch, Llewellyn, and Shue, for a total of \$1,850.20 from AAA - NYS Contract # PC69006.

**Apparatus** - Engine 167 is at Firematic for repairs to its pump and will undergo retesting by Firematic before being returned to service.

Rescue 21 - Property Manager Andros to take Rescue 21 to HVFE for a scan to inspect an indicator light.

**Membership** - On average, 13 Members (7 Interior) responded per call during the month of August.

**Training** - Exterior Firefighting Skills Drill completed on August 18th

Interior Firefighting Skills Drill completed on August 25th

Live Burn Training with Croton Falls FD conducted by Signal 73

Fire Training on September 13th

Live Fire Training at WCDES utilizing burn simulator on September 2nd

Trainee Matt Shue continuing Firefighter I Class through January 3rd

**Miscellaneous** - The Department has purchased twelve fire ground radios. The radios require further service. They will be placed in service on Engine 167, Utility 79, and Captains.

Members recently raked the infield and may be requesting the Department purchase additional clay and bases to enhance the ball field for Member use.

Motion to approve the Chief's Equipment request for the three pairs of boots \$1,850.20, Motion Scott, second Lombardi, all voted in favor.

### **Public Comment Period**

Department President Johnson asks the Board to consider a policy regarding possession of firearms. He assured the District that the Department is considering taking steps in support of a concrete policy in place, with consequences for violation of the policy.

Paul Black stated that he is in favor of a policy, but that District policies cannot override state law. Scott Forbes expressed support for a firearms policy that abides by the law.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Budget YTD vs Actual, Intermonth - Transfers, Deposits Received, Bank Statement reconciliation reports

### **Approval of Treasurer's Report**

Motion Lombardi, seconded Gossett, all voted in favor.

Bank statements have been reconciled without exception by Commissioner Amerling.

### **Audit of Pending Claims**

Pending claims were read by Property Manager Andros.

Motion to approve claims Lombardi, second Amerling, all voted in favor.

### **Correspondence**

Jennings - See Unfinished Business

DASNY Grant Questionnaire Completed

Three Lakes Council - The Board permitted The Three Lakes Council use of the Pavilion for their annual meeting. The Three Lakes Council sent a letter of appreciation to the Department thanking them for their generosity. Treasurer Blum informed the Board of the letter and its expression of gratitude.

### **District Property Report**

Building Usage - 9/20 (Wetzel), 9/27 (Department)

Building Projects - N/R

Pending Projects - N/R

### **Administration**

Firearms Policy Discussion - The attorney confirms that the Fire House is a sensitive location. Firearms should not be allowed in the Fire House and should be locked away.

## **Professional Services**

Insurance - Commissioners Lombardi and Amerling informed the Board that they have reviewed the commercial insurance package. There are some changes in the coverages:

- The cost has increased for coverage of the Building and the Storage Shed.
- The Building is covered for a total loss regardless of the fact that the Building is covered for \$11M.
- General Liability now includes a Data / Cyber Incident coverage.

Commissioners Amerling and Lombardi will consult with Niles Insurance to clarify the following:

- Apparatus Coverage is for \$1.1 million. The new truck is \$1.5M. Commissioner Lombardi noted the discrepancy with the Board. Commissioner Lombardi will ask Niles to clarify.
- Commissioners Lombardi and Amerling will ask for clarification on the Member per diem expense coverage.
- Commissioner Lombardi will ask for clarification regarding Members vehicles coverage during a non emergency.

## **Unfinished Business**

**2026 Budget** - Board to set date for Budget Hearing and Regular District Meeting. (October 22)

**C.R.E.S.T. Grant Update** - Commissioner Lombardi has completed the DASNY questionnaire, and will share updates with the Board as they become available.

**District Policy Updates** - Firearms Policy (see **Administration**)

**Pavilion** - District Secretary is in receipt of the Certificate of Occupancy for the Pavilion.

## **Pending Project - Firehouse Entrance Alterations**

Hadlock Electric reported to the Board that some circuits would need to be re-fed and that there are going to be extras involved that the architect didn't have in their scope. Other topics for the architect include an upgraded card reader, raising the door, installation of door security features, and the architect covering some costs.

Commissioner Gossett will discuss with the architects and will update the Board. An estimate is expected for the ADA ramp, and the Board will meet with architects on September 9th.

## **New Business**

### **2026 Budget**

Treasurer Blum read aloud the resolution for tax cap override approval from the Board. All voted “Aye” by roll call. The 2026 preliminary budget of \$1,021,500 was proposed and discussed. The preliminary Budget will be posted on the District website, and a copy will be given to the Town Clerk.

### **New Business**

Commissioner Lombardi would like to discuss processing fees for FOIL requests at the next Regular District meeting.

A Special District Meeting will be held on Monday, October 6, 2025 at 7pm at the South Salem Fire House to process claims, and handle other District business as needed.

A Budget Hearing will be held on Wednesday, October 22, 2025 at 7pm at the South Salem Fire House to present the 2026 Budget. The Budget Hearing will be followed by a Special District Meeting, at which time it is expected the 2026 Budget will be approved.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:02pm.

Beth Mansfield  
Secretary  
South Salem Fire District