



BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS MEETING TRANSCRIPT

(AS REQUIRED BY NYS GOVERNOR CUOMO'S EXECUTIVE ORDER 202.1)

JANUARY 25, 2021 - 7:00 p.m.

Chief William Steenbergh: Alright, Mr. Chairman. The recording is on and I've admitted all of the people that were waiting in the, uh, in the waiting room.

Chairman Ralph Chiumento: Okay, thank you. Okay then, I guess we'll call the meeting to order and we'll do a roll call. Commissioner Dore?

Commissioner Richard Dore: I'm here.

Chairman Ralph Chiumento: Commissioner Longi?

Commissioner Peter Longi: Here.

Chairman Ralph Chiumento: Commissioner Valdez?

Commissioner Peter Valdez: Here.

Chairman Ralph Chiumento: Commissioner Griffing?

Commissioner Bruce Griffing: Here.

Chairman Ralph Chiumento: And I am present. Umm, Chief Steenbergh is..

Chief William Steenbergh: Here.

Chairman Ralph Chiumento: Uh, Assistant Chief Philipp?

Assistant Chief Eric Philipp: Here.

Chairman Ralph Chiumento: Director of EMS Violante?

Director of EMS David Violante: Here.

Chairman Ralph Chiumento: Secretary O'Neill.

District Secretary Renee O'Neill: Here.

Chairman Ralph Chiumento: And Treasurer James Passikoff?

Treasurer James Passikoff: Here.

Chairman Ralph Chiumento: Okay, excellent. I'd like everybody just to observe a moment of silence for Past Assistant Chief of ours, Kevin Finnigan passed away, uh, January 13, 2021. He was a life member of Rochdale and had over 16 years of volunteer service, including holding the ranks of Assistant Chief and obviously the one with (INAUDIBLE) as well, so...a moment of silence please.

(MOMENT OF SILENCE)

Chairman Ralph Chiumento: Okay, thank you. Agenda. Did we have any comments come in via e-mail?

District Secretary Renee O'Neill: No.

Chairman Ralph Chiumento: No? Nothing. Okay. Comments from the Board are not needed. We'll go to Abstract approval. Do I hear a motion for Abstract 21-1B?

Commissioner Peter Valdez: Yeah. I'd like to make a motion for Abstract, uh, 21-1B, this is Commissioner Valdez. Uh, paid bills \$264,408.72 total number of checks, uh, 8. Unpaid bills \$68,038.87 total number of checks 36. Uh, for a total of \$332,477.59 for a total number of checks of 44.

Chairman Ralph Chiumento: Motion made, is there a second?

District Secretary Renee O'Neill: Can you just check...

Commissioner Bruce Griffing: Commissioner Griffing, I'll second that.

District Secretary Renee O'Neill: Can you just check the, umm, grand total? I thought it was for 447 unless I wrote it down wrong. He said seven. He said 7, 477.

Commissioner Peter Valdez: Uh, for what? The first one or the second one? I said uh, paid bills, \$264,408.72.

District Secretary Renee O'Neill: Correct. No, I'm talking about the grand total. \$300...I wrote down \$332,447.59 and you said \$332,477.

Commissioner Peter Valdez: Alright, so, \$330...\$330... alright, that's what I thought I said, but anyway, \$332,447.59 total number of checks 44.

District Secretary Renee O'Neill: Thank you.

Chairman Ralph Chiumento: Okay. Motion made and seconded. Umm, any discussion? Hearing none, we'll do a roll call. Commissioner Dore?

Commissioner Richard Dore: Aye.

Chairman Ralph Chiumento: Commissioner Longi?

Commissioner Peter Longi: Aye.

Chairman Ralph Chiumento: Commissioner Valdez?
Commissioner Peter Valdez: Aye.

Chairman Ralph Chiumento: Commissioner Griffing?

Commissioner Bruce Griffing: Aye.

Chairman Ralph Chiumento: And Commissioner Chiumento is an Aye. Okay, so let's see. Minutes to be approved. Umm, we can probably do them both in one motion, umm, for January 4, 2021 Organizational meeting and the January 4, 2021 regular Commissioners meeting. Is there a motion to approve those?

Commissioner Richard Dore: I'll make a motion to approve both of them.

Chairman Ralph Chiumento: Motion made, is there a second?

Commissioner Peter Longi: I'll second that. Longi.

Chairman Ralph Chiumento: Any discussion? (PAUSE) Hearing none, we'll go to a roll call again. Commissioner Dore?

Commissioner Richard Dore: Aye.

Chairman Ralph Chiumento: Commissioner Longi?

Commissioner Peter Longi: Aye.

Chairman Ralph Chiumento: Commissioner Valdez?

Commissioner Peter Valdez: Aye.

Chairman Ralph Chiumento: Commissioner Griffing?

Commissioner Bruce Griffing: Aye.

Chairman Ralph Chiumento: And Commissioner Chiumento is also an Aye. Thank you. Uh, Monthly Reports.

Commissioner Peter Valdez: Yes, uh, Commissioner Valdez. Service Awards uh, have three. The first one is received, January 4, 2021 from Glens Falls National Bank, their November 2020 Statement of Value and Activity. Number two, email, dated January 15, 2021 from Glens Falls National Bank regarding Investment Update and 2021 Outlook. Number three, received January 18, 2021 from Glen Falls National Bank December 2020 Statement of Value and Activity. And that's all I have.

Chairman Ralph Chiumento: Excellent. Thank you. Umm, I will make note under the, umm, Monthly Committee Reports, I have up..well Renee has updated the uh, the committee assignments to reflect this year's umm. Didn't do a lot of changing. Uh, most, a lot of you know, trying to honor what those of you that got back to me wanted and also trying to do it with probably as few moves as possible, so there was some continuity. So if anybody has a extenuating concern about the committee they're on, just let me know and we can see if we can move it around a little bit, but that, that's kind of what I came up with and based on that are there any other committee reports?(PAUSE)Okay, umm, there is no correspondence. And nothing really to be taken by the Board. Okay, we do have donations. Andrea Miron for assistance received for \$100. Is there a motion?

Commissioner Peter Longi: To accept the donation from Andrea Miron for \$100.

Chairman Ralph Chiumento: To the General Fund?

Commissioner Peter Longi: For the General Fund.

Chairman Ralph Chiumento: Motion made. Is there a second?

Commissioner Bruce Griffing: Commissioner Griffing. I'll second that.

Chairman Ralph Chiumento: Motion made and seconded. Umm, go with a roll call again. Commissioner Dore?

Commissioner Richard Dore: Aye.

Chairman Ralph Chiumento: Commissioner Longi?

Commissioner Peter Longi: Aye.

Chairman Ralph Chiumento: Commissioner Valdez?

Commissioner Peter Valdez: Aye.

Chairman Ralph Chiumento: Commissioner Griffing?

Commissioner Bruce Griffing: Aye.

Chairman Ralph Chiumento: And Commissioner Chiumento is an Aye. Umm, Commissioners Items we do need to, uh, do an RFP for our Independent Financial Audit for the years 2020 - 2024, uh, they will be doing this year's for last year. So it kind of works that way. So, umm, we basically use the same framework as the previous RFP, as far as wording and everything. I think you guys had it sent out. So, is there a motion to approve the RFP..to move forward with the RFP, I guess is a better way to put it. (PAUSE) Do I hear a motion to move forward with the RFP?

Commissioner Peter Valdez: Yeah, Commissioner Valdez. I'd like to make a motion to, uh, move forward with the RFP.

Chairman Ralph Chiumento. Second?

Commissioner Peter Longi: Second. Longi.

Chairman Ralph Chiumento: Any discussion?

Commissioner Richard Dore: Are we using the same auditing company?

Chairman Ralph Chiumento: Uh, that will depend on what the RFP comes up with. We haven't made that decision. This is just to go out for an RFP.

Commissioner Richard Dore: Okay, this is just..

Chairman Ralph Chiumento: Every five years, you have to kind of go back out for the RFP.

Commissioner Richard Dore: Okay, yeah, just wanted to see if it was just going out.

Chairman Ralph Chiumento: Depending on who submits proposals, we can, should they be the best option, based on what gets submitted.

Commissioner Richard Dore: Okay.

Chairman Ralph Chiumento: 'Cause I did check that out as well, to see whether we could go with them again and the Attorney said yes. Umm, so based on that, is there any other discussion? Roll call. Commissioner Dore?

Commissioner Richard Dore: Aye.

Chairman Ralph Chiumento: Commissioner Longi?

Commissioner Peter Longi: Aye.

Chairman Ralph Chiumento: Commissioner Valdez?

Commissioner Peter Valdez: Aye.

Chairman Ralph Chiumento: Commissioner Griffing?

Commissioner Bruce Griffing: Aye.

Chairman Ralph Chiumento: And Commissioner Chiumento is an Aye. Okay, we can put that out. Next, District Staff items, uh, Chief. You want to start?

Chief William Steenbergh: Okay, good evening. Uh, a couple things right. First wanted to let you know that, uh, I've been working with the Attorney. Uh, we need to make mostly housekeeping changes to the procurement policy, to the credit card policy. Uh, I, I hope to have all those documents for you next week for the meeting. Uh, basically, we're just realigning some language. Uh, now that we have a Personnel administrator who is in a uh, supervisory position in the, in the business office. So we're, we're cleaning up some of the language to, to reflect that new position and uh, I tried to have that for you tonight, but we just didn't get it completely done. So uh, we'll work on having that for, for next week. Uh, I wanted to let you know that, uh, 3211 and 3214 uh, will be going out uh, one at a time back to the dealership for some warranty work. Uh, they're going to address some paint issues. Uh, they'll be out each, each vehicle will be out for 10 days, two week time frame. That's why we're doing them one at a time to, to minimize the impact of the fleet and then, uh, we'll be using reserve rigs, uh while uh, they're out getting that work done. Uh, I want to say thank you to, Friendly Ford and uh, the Ford Corporation for their donation of, of two cases of, of, uh, surgical masks for, for our responders to wear. Uh, that was greatly appreciated and uh, will certainly get used uh, around the District as, as we, uh, continue to see a very high percentage of, of our EMS responses are for COVID, known COVID or COVID presumptive COVID patients. Umm, wanted to let you know that there are a couple grants opening that we will be pursuing. Uh, the AFG grant is, is open and we will be pursuing training money uh, for that if we're fortunate enough to get selected. Umm, and uh, I'll come back to you with, with specifics I don't have a budget completed yet. But uh, we have about a month to file for, for the grant. So we're in the process of, of designing that application and the other grant that we're going to pursue is, is from uh, our insurance provider, PERMA, our workman's comp provider. Uh, they put out a grant towards uh, gear washers and dryers and while we just purchased a new washing machine, so we would not be eligible for that part of the grant, we will pursue uh, a gear dryer. Uh, that would work in, in conjunction with that. So uh, that's, that's capped at \$5,000 so, uh we'll, we'll get those applications grants filed within the next uh, month or so. At the request of, of the Chairman, the Treasurer and I uh,

met with some, you know, to have a preliminary discussion about where uh, 2020 wound up uh, so that we could make some recommendations to you about uh, allocating some fund balance money into reserve funds. So there's still some outstanding things and we're, and the Treasurer can talk about the, the process of finalizing the year end, but based on some preliminary things for December uh, the, the fund balance for December, uh, with all other expenses covered should be in the \$100,000 range. Uh, so that leaves the in round numbers, the, the \$1.9 that was existing fund balance, uh, \$100,000 uh, estimated fund balance from 2020 and uh, he and I looked at the reserve funds and the recommendation is that we, uh, that the Board put \$600,000 into the apparatus fund, uh, \$100,000 into the building reserve fund, that we hold out \$100,000 towards the second payment at Croft as, as their construction project progresses through the course of 21 and that the remaining balance of carry forward. We have a number of known retirements coming up in 2021 based on the MOA that we signed with the Union, uh and that will leave us, uh, a little bit of a cushion for contingency, uh, for the 2021 year. So, uh, that is our recommendation for the Board as, as a starting point for discussion.

Chairman Ralph Chiumento: Are you looking for the discussion tonight or?

Chief William Steenbergh: Uh, that's, that's your option, Mr. Chairman. Uh, you would ask, you would asked me to (Chairman Ralph Chiumento: yeah) come back with a, with a recommendation, so where we go with it after that is, is entirely how you would like to proceed.

Chairman Ralph Chiumento: So does anybody have any questions, concerns, thoughts, as far as the allocate? I know we talked about it several times last year but never really did anything and I would like to make it go to where it's supposed to go. Umm, because we don't budget for capital reserve funds and the only thing we can put into them is uh, anything left over from previous year's budget and quite honestly, the amount that we need to put in is probably far greater than, than what we are putting in, but, umm, you do what you can and, and move from there. So hopefully uh, we'll be able to do more and a hundred thousand leftover that's, that's not even enough that needs to go into annually. Just keep the same equipment. Umm, so in any case, umm, is there anyone...

Commissioner Peter Valdez: Mr. Chairman.

Chairman Ralph Chiumento: Yes.

Commissioner Peter Valdez: Mr. Chairman. This is, uh, Commissioner Valdez. Uh, I'd like to uh, uh, sideline uh, this, this, this conversation. I, I, haven't seen the emails. So I like to see the numbers. Uh, I don't see it on the screen. And I'd like, umm, uh, consideration for, for further discussion, umm, next meeting. Okay, I'd like to uh, look at the, look at the numbers go over it with the Finance Committee, talk to the Chief umm, so I have some, some ideas and uh, if we can, uh, just, uh sideline this discussion, till, to postpone it till at least the next meeting, I greatly appreciate it.

Chairman Ralph Chiumento: No, I have no problem. We not to vote on it tonight. I just want to know exactly, you know, if you guys up to speed on it. See what they, they're looking for, and, umm, I'm sure Bill can shoot, Chief can shoot out a email, umm, with exactly what that is and a brief, you know, the reasoning already, but he can get your concrete numbers, umm, as to what he's planning on and where it's going and then what would be left for this coming year to uh, take care of any, uh,

retirement umm, money is necessary. Okay. I mean, the other option is you can put it into the reserve fund for retirement, just to take it back out, but it seems like so (INAUDIBLE). No need. So, um, anyway, that's kind of it. So that's fine, Chief. If you want to go on to your next item and if you would just shoot out those numbers, uh, you know tomorrow sometime.

Chief William Steenbergh: Sure. No problem, no problem at all. Uh, the remainder, the remainder, of my items are for Executive Session, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman Ralph Chiumento: Okay, thank you. Assistant Chief Philipp.

Assistant Chief Eric Philipp: Uh, the only thing I have is, you know, obviously we're on the zoom. Umm, we're hoping to get training, uh, scheduled backup starting, uh, first week of February. Captain, uh, from Croft is already uh, been speaking with the Battalion, uh, Chief from training to get that going. So uh, hopefully we can get some training early on in this year going for the members.

Chairman Ralph Chiumento: Okay, is that it?

Assistant Chief Eric Philipp: That's it.

Chairman Ralph Chiumento: Okay, Director of EMS Violante.

Director of EMS David Violante: Gents, it's another couple weeks, lot more going on out there. Uh, we now have not just one, but two strains that I'm sure you're all aware of, of, of COVID. Uh, we're finding more out about the South African strain. Uh, the other one uh, is most definitely here and probably uh, you know, pervasive uh, throughout the US. The South African one, we're still trying to find a little bit more about it's apparently worse, umm, in terms of transmission, uh, but we're working on and we'll let everybody know more as, as it comes around. Uh, to that end, uh, you know, I definitely continue uh, to say we need to, uh, make sure we're wearing masks and using hand sanitizer and uh, doing all the preventive measures, we've been doing, uh, so that's good. Now, I'd like to throw a, a, huge, huge kudos to, uh, John Cox. He has been uh, working nonstop, uh, every day on making sure that our members get vaccinated for those who do want to get vaccinated. Uh, we've had so far uh, 81 members uh, requesting the vaccine, 73 have their first vaccine complete, uh, 8 are waiting for their first dose and 23 have completed both doses. Uh, so that's really good. 94% umm, of our career staff, umm, have been vaccinated, at least with their first dose umm, and, umm, 28% of all of our members have umm, received both doses of those who have wanted it. Uh, we, he's been working really closely with the hospitals, uh, to make sure that if there's any last minute changes to scheduling, uh, that they call us, and our members get in. uh, we've had at least 11 members get last minute phone calls. Hey, it's available here. Hey, it's available there. Uh, can you go and they have. And so, you know, it's been all around the region as well, not just the hospitals. We've had folks going out to Goshen, out to Dover and whatnot, so a huge kudos to John. He's doing a super, super job with this uh, and uh, I just really want to thank him for all of his efforts, it's really helpful. We do continue to have enough uh, PPE in stock for operations. Uh, you know, Shannon and Adam have been on top of that and, uh, you know, we couldn't do without everybody working together. Uh, I would like to thank the Chief and the Commissioners for all their support and efforts with this to, uh, you know, we couldn't continue to do as well as we're doing, uh,

as Chief said, you know, you listen to, to the calls going on and just about every call is a COVID call in some way, shape, or form, whether it's the person, the family, other people at the residence, that sort of thing, so our guys are doing really well, you know, let's keep up the great work.

Chairman Ralph Chiumento: Thank you, Dave.

Director of EMS David Violante: Thank you.

Chairman Ralph Chiumento: And yeah, do it safely. I guess is the key. Umm, Treasurer Passikoff.

Treasurer James Passikoff: Hello. Umm, I sent out the report over the weekend. Uh, this, this is of course the preliminary report. Uh, we still have some payables that we'll be pulling in that have cut, will come in umm, within the next three or four weeks. Uh, we're sitting now with about \$102,000 fund, uh, eh, excess of revenue over expenses. I suspect that that will probably drop into the 50 range. Uh, but uh, at, at least we didn't go in, the in the hole as I thought we were. We had a good potential to do it and we've talked about the uh, allocations to the reserve funds, etc. and Bill has a good list and he'll send that out to you, so that you can see everything that we talked about with what we need to, we think we need to do.

Chairman Ralph Chiumento: Okay. And so with that we'll acknowledge receipt of the preliminary December 31st uh, Financial Report. Okay, schools. Umm, I guess for information, umm, and notification. We have Fire Company Officer three. Uh, everybody, everybody can see this right, even the, umm, people that are not can see the agenda that are not, umm, Board members?

Chief William Steenbergh: Anybody who's, uh, doing on a computer can see the list. Uh, there may be people that are listening on a phone that would not.

Chairman Ralph Chiumento: Okay, so there are, umm, 10, uh, Fire Company Officer three people signed up for training, uh, April 12th - 23rd. Uh, it's online, uh, it has its pluses and minuses. Uh, 90% is covered by a leadership grant. Umm, the individuals attending will be William Steenbergh, Christopher Mills, Adam Kangas, Joseph Tarquinio, umm, Chris Saya, William Tompkins, John Dunderdale, Gary Lewis, Richard Muellerleile and Christopher Rinck. Umm, so, finally, getting some training in there, umm, (INAUDIBLE). Umm, schools that require consideration is Michael Conroy. Instructor Authorization Conference, umm, February 6th - 12th at New York State Fire Academy in Montour Falls, \$25 registration, umm, total cost to be determined, not requesting use of district vehicle 9 hours of District time, 54 hours of own time and this will only occur if a position opens up. He's currently on the waitlist. Do I hear a motion on that?

Commissioner Peter Longi: Motion to approve, umm, the request by Michael Conroy. The Instructor Authorization Conference, February 6th - 12th at the Fire Academy in Montour Falls.

Commissioner Richard Dore: I'll second that.

(INAUDIBLE)

Chairman Ralph Chiumento: Any discussion? All in favor? Oh, I'll do a roll call. Commissioner Dore?

Commissioner Richard Dore: Aye.

Chairman Ralph Chiumento: Commissioner Longi?

Commissioner Peter Longi: Aye.

Chairman Ralph Chiumento: Commissioner Valdez?

Commissioner Peter Valdez: Aye.

Chairman Ralph Chiumento: Commissioner Griffing?

Commissioner Bruce Griffing: Aye.

Chairman Ralph Chiumento: Commissioner Chiumento Aye. Someday. Umm, items for Executive Session? Chief, you said you had some?

Chief William Steenbergh: Sorry, try this now. I have (PAUSE) Okay, sorry about that. Uh, I have, uh six items related to the employment history of individuals. Uh, four items are contractual and one related to, uh, acquisition, sale or lease of real property.

Chairman Ralph Chiumento: Does anybody else have anything for Executive Session?

Commissioner Peter Valdez: Mr. Chairman, uh, if nobody else has anything for Executive Session be-before we go into Executive Session. I just wanted to uh, to uh, say something. So I'll wait. Okay, so umm, I just want to echo uh, uh, Director of EMS Dave Violante's comments with regards to Firefighter Paramedic John Cox. He has done a phenomenal job as far as scheduling these uh, vaccinations uh, for the career staff and the volunteers. Uh, it's been truly outstanding given all the uh, headwinds and the confusion out there and he's, he's just really, really been on top of it. And also, I'd like to thank him for the uh, 2020 summary of calls. Uh, that he, he, uh, sent to, uh, to the Board. Umm, is very detailed, uh, it was, it was well done. Uh, it, obviously took a lot of time and umm, and I have never seen such a detailed report uh, since I've been uh, since I've been with the uh, the District. So, uh, I'm asking the Board to, uh, to give him a letter of appreciation recognition for a job well done. He has been uh, an outstanding resource uh, for the District. And uh, I just, I just think we really need to appreciate that. That's what I have to say. Thank you.

Chairman Ralph Chiumento: And I agree wholeheartedly. I mean, he's been working that vaccination program, day and night. Umm, it wasn't just during the normal workday hours. So he's really put a lot into it, to help our members stay safe. So, we have, we'll direct that be done.

Commissioner Peter Valdez: Thank you.

Chairman Ralph Chiumento: Do I hear a motion to go into Executive Session?

Commissioner Richard Dore: I'll make a motion to go to Executive Session, Commissioner Dore.

Chairman Ralph Chiumento: Is there's a second?

Commissioner Peter Longi: Longi, second.

Chairman Ralph Chiumento: Umm, I'm just going to say, all in favor on this one. I don't think we need a roll call. Aye.

Commissioner Peter Longi: Aye.

Commissioner Bruce Griffing: Aye.

Commissioner Richard Dore: Aye.

Commissioner Peter Valdez: Aye.

Chairman Ralph Chiumento: Thank you.

(EXECUTIVE SESSION)

Chief William Steenbergh: We've admitted everybody that was in the waiting room back into the meeting and the, the recording is back on whenever you're ready.

Chairman Ralph Chiumento: Okay, we are out of Executive Session. So we, umm, have at least a few things to uh, accomplish. So Chief if you want to read the employment contracts we're approving.

Chief William Steenbergh: So these are the uh, employment agreements and resolutions for Renee O'Neill, Adam Packer, Shannon Shook and Denise Holzberger, uh, retroactive to January 1st.

Chairman Ralph Chiumento: Do I hear a motion to approve those?

Commissioner Peter Longi: I'll make a motion to approve.

Chairman Ralph Chiumento: Is there a second?

Commissioner Peter Valdez: Second.

Chairman Ralph Chiumento: Is there any discussion? (PAUSE) Hearing none, umm, I'll do a roll call. Commissioner Longi?

Commissioner Peter Longi: Aye.

Chairman Ralph Chiumento: Commissioner Dore?

Commissioner Richard Dore: Aye.

Chairman Ralph Chiumento: Commissioner Valdez?

Commissioner Peter Valdez: Aye.

Chairman Ralph Chiumento: Commissioner Griffing?

Commissioner Bruce Griffing: Aye.

Chairman Ralph Chiumento: and Commissioner Chiumento is an Aye. Is there anything else? (PAUSE) Hearing none. Do I hear a motion to adjourn?

Commissioner Richard Dore: I'll make a motion to adjourn.

Chairman Ralph Chiumento: Is their second?

Commissioner Peter Longi: I'll second it.

Chairman Ralph Chiumento: Seconded. I'm not going to do a roll call. All in favor.

Commissioner Peter Valdez: Aye.

Commissioner Richard Dore: Aye.

Commissioner Peter Longi: Aye.

Commissioner Bruce Griffing: Aye.

Chairman Ralph Chiumento: Aye. Opposed? Carried. Thank you all. Have a good night. Stay safe.

Commissioner Peter Valdez: Good night.

Commissioner Richard Dore: Good night.

District Secretary Renee O'Neill: Thank you to the Board as well. Appreciate it.

Transcribed and respectfully submitted by,

Renee O'Neill
District Secretary