

FIRE ISLAND PINES FIRE DISTRICT
COMMISSIONER MEETING December 13th, 2025
West Sayville Fire House

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY CHAIRMAN BOSS AT 10:45 A.M.
Pledge of Allegiance recited by all, followed by a moment of silence.

Present:

Walter Boss, Chair
Holly Rhodes-Teague, Vice Chair
Eugene Cook
Joseph Micheels
Robert McGarity - VIA ZOOM
Richard Barry, Secretary
Robert Marzella, Treasurer
Kyle Merker, Department Chief - VIA ZOOM
Jordan Cohen, Assistant Chief - VIA ZOOM

SECRETARY REPORT -

Received ISO files from Bo Fridesberg sent six pages of records. Chairman Boss will have a conversation with him about the Board's view on this matter.

Spoke with Cage Solutions and Asst Chief Cohen regarding our webpage. We also need to contact them and see if we need to change our website address to a .gov address.

A letter was sent to West Sayville Fire District to request permission to use their facilities for our Commissioner Meetings.

E-mail was sent to Grant Guys informing them that we are not doing a FEMA grant application for 2026. We did sign a contract with Grant Guys for a NYS Grant. We are now going to apply for a DASNY Grant. We need to discuss the DASNY Grant and their charges.

We had a Zoom call with all Commissioners on Sunday, November 23, 2025 to discuss the proposed projects for the old firehouse.

Before we put in a letter to the Governor's office we will contact Grant Guys to discuss their fees going forward.

Managed to put Robert McGarity on the FEMA GO page. Currently Richard Barry is the Administrator on the FEMA GO website. We will try to switch it so that Robert McGarity will be the site Administrator.

At the request of the State Comptroller's office our proposed meeting minutes of 10/18/25 were sent to them, regarding our 2026 budget.

Instructed to write a letter to Proliner about three items that still need to be dealt with on our newest vehicle.

Discussed Meeting calendar for 2026. The following dates were agreed to:

In West Sayville on January 10, 2026 at 10:30 a.m.; March 7, 2026 at 10:30 a.m. Back at the Fire Island Pines Firehouse on April 11th, 2026 at noon; May 16th, 2026 at noon; June

19th, 2026 at 6 p.m.; Tuesday, July 14, 2026 at 6 p.m.; August 15th, 2026 at noon; September 19th, 2026 at 1 p.m.; October 24, 2026 at 10 a.m.. The December 12, 2026 meeting will be at 10:30 a.m. at the West Sayville Firehouse

MOTION MADE BY COMMISSIONER MICHEELS, seconded by Commissioner Rhodes-Teague to accept the October 18, 2025 meeting minutes. Commissioners Boss, Micheels, and Rhodes-Teague approved, Commissioner Cook abstained.

TREASURER'S REPORT -

Discussed Proliner invoices and how we had \$2,400.00 left on our truck budget, that we can apply to this charge.

Discussed personnel wage increases for 2026.

Discussed the Treasurer's report of Actual to Budget; forecasted budget till end of 2025 what we are over or under by. Discussed what our reserve fund contribution will be.

Decided to do one motion for the following items:

Island Generator	Island Generator	\$1,460.00
Domain renewal/hosting	Kage Solutions	\$ 180.00
Facility Inspection	H2M Architects	\$ 495.00
Landscaping & Cleanup	Flower Girls	\$ 960.00
Post Office Key	BofA/post office	\$ 19.00
Tools	BofA/various vendors	\$ 420.00
Vehicle Parts/Repairs	BofA/various vendors	\$1,038.00
Firematic	Firematic	\$1,509.00
Legal Fees	Robert Fuchs, Esq.	\$ 275.00
Misc Freight Charges	Coastline	\$ 388.00
2026 Fireman's Assoc dues	NYS Fireman's Assoc	\$ 260.00
Old Firehouse Close + 5 tanks	LI Plumbing Solutions	\$1,081.00
NAPA - Auto Supplies	NAPA	\$ 41.00
Postage to TOB 2026 budget	Robert Marzella	\$ 11.00
Annex Closing	Walter Boss	\$ 450.00
Hose Testing	US Fire Services	\$4,171.00
Grainger purchases, Sayville		
Ford & Postage	BofA	\$ 359.00
Postage	Liz Teague	\$ 30.38
Uniform Items	All American Uniform	\$ 968.17

MOTION MADE by Commissioner Cook, seconded by Commissioner Micheels to expend \$13,756.55 for the above listed items. Commissioners Cook, Micheels & Rhodes-Teague all voted in favor. Commissioner Boss voted in favor of all items, except for annex closing, he abstained on that payment.

The agreement with the Town and the Water Island contract has been approved. Chairman Boss will reach out to Chief Mehrman to see when we will receive payment.

NYS Comptroller's office and Town of Brookhaven reached out to the District concerning the 2026 budget. We supplied all information that was requested and have been advised that they are satisfied that all is in order.

MOTION MADE BY COMMISSIONER COOK to accept the Treasurer's Report, seconded by Commissioner Micheels. Commissioners Boss, Cook, Micheels and Rhodes-Teague all voted in favor.

CHIEF'S REPORT:

ALARMS:

#4041	10/26/25	Water Rescue
#4042	11/08/25	Mutual Aid to Davis Park - False Trip
#4043	11/12/25	Mutual Aid to Davis Park - False Trip

MEMBERSHIP STATUS:

Messersmith - awaiting physical
Davinson - Arson Report sent to wrong Department. Have received it, and all good to go.
Probation members are all signed up for Firefighter 1, which begins on January 8, 2026.

REQUESTS/COMMENTS:

- 1 Uniform for Nicosia is in, needs to be picked up. (2024 expense)
Hardware for Halpin & Beutel is in. Uniforms will be in during 2026. (2025 exp)
Uniform changes have been ordered for those changing ranks.
- 2 Turn Out Gear - Turnout gear for Halpin & Beutel, suggest waiting on placing order until decision is made on which Turn Out Gear will be purchased with grant. Commissioner Micheels will find out what are the new requirements on Turn Out Gear.
- 3 Pager that was sent out for repair is ready to be picked up from Integrated Wireless.
Commissioner Micheels will pick up order.
- 4 Water Island Hose - still outstanding
- 5 Boots for Pollack are in.
- 6 Discussion on NYS Matching Grant for radios conducted by Asst Chief Cohen. District radios are approximately 20 years old. Asst Chief Cohen advised that there is a cost of \$350.00 to write up the application. The grant is for \$7,000.00. For \$3,850.00 we would get \$7,000 of brand new radios. We have quotes for radios that all work on Fire Island Departments. R5 Radios, Motorola with bluetooth technology. The grant has to be applied for by December 22nd. We eventually need 30 to 35 radios for the entire Department. This would be a start to replenish our radios, which are our lifeline at fire scenes. They are operative with our existing radios.

MOTION MADE BY COMMISSIONER RHODES-TEAGE, seconded by Commissioner Cook to pay \$350.00 to Contract Data Management for the grant application on radios. Commissioner Micheels, Boss, Cook and Rhodes-Teague all voted in favor.

All of the Commissioners expressed their thanks and appreciation to Chief Merker as this is his last meeting as chief.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

BUDGET & RECORDS - Commissioner Cook

The budget has been submitted and the NYS Comptroller reviewed it. Term Life Insurance and Cancer policies were reviewed and updated the rosters. Everything up to date going into January 1, 2026. VFIS no longer keeps beneficiary forms. We need to get all updated beneficiary forms at the initial spring meeting.

ALARMS, ISO/OSHA CHANGES, RECONCILIATIONS - Commissioner Rhodes-Teague

Pink sheets will be reviewed when we are back at the beach
Bank reconciliations were reviewed for October and November 2025

GROUNDS/PR - Commissioner McGarity

Discussed a new generator. We need to install if possible by the end of year in order for the 10 year warrantee to be in place. We have two quotes, one from Island Generator and one from Holborn. There is a \$1,400.00 difference between the two quotes. There were a lot of questions if it could be installed within the next two weeks. Gas tanks need to be moved away from the generator. We need to have a platform built.

Josh Lerner from Island Generator, says he could fill out paperwork and get it done for about \$1,500.00. He would get the generator up and running so the extended warrantee could be put in place. We will try to get a price from the other vendor, Holburn early next week.

It was determined that the Board would use Island Generator to get the generator installed to get it working for warranty purposes.

MOTION MADE BY COMMISSIONER COOK, seconded by COMMISSIONER MICHEELS for \$1,500.00 to Island Generator to get the generator running for warranty purposes. Commissioner Cook, Boss, Micheels and Rhodes-Teague all voted in favor.

MOTION MADE BY COMMISSIONER COOK, seconded by COMMISSIONER MICHEELS for up to \$500.00 for the gas line for generator. Commissioner Cook, Micheels, Boss and Rhodes-Teague all voted in favor.

Discussed reconstruction of the old firehouse in an attempt to try and get a basic estimate on what a project like that would cost. We are trying to compose a letter to the Governor of NY to apply for a DASNY Grant and need a ballpark figure to put in a proposed letter. A conversation was had with a local architect and we were instructed on a preliminary basis, to keep the bathrooms and kitchen in the old firehouse. We also discussed that in order to help the grant process it was strongly suggested that we provide an EMS cart housed in the rebuilt structure during the off season.

It was agreed that Commissioner McGarity would compose a letter and ask for an amount of \$3 million in a draft letter. It will be circulated among all the Commissioners for review and final input. After review it was suggested that perhaps FIPPOA would also forward our request for the DASNY grant along with the Fire District.

It was also agreed that Commissioner McGarity would put bullet points together of perhaps what we would like in the new structure. All Commissioners will have an opportunity to add to the listing and then perhaps we can all have a Zoom call to work out a list of everyone's ideas.

Discussed contacting bond counsel to explore what the cost of bonding would be for the proposed reconfiguration of the old firehouse. It was decided that after the new year, District Secretary Barry would look into this, having dealt with this with the purchase of the Annex.

APPARATUS, EQUIPMENT, RADIOS - CHAIRMAN BOSS

Discussed the new truck and items that still need to be dealt with. It was determined that Secretary Barry would address a letter to Proliner, listing the following three items that still need to be repaired: The new handles need to be reinforced from the inside; the roll up door on the driver's side does not work properly and we were promised that the SCBA seat blank on the passenger side would be given to us free of charge.

Discussed once again snow removal in the community and its many challenges. It is now FIPPOA's responsibility to handle the snow removal in the community.

All the trucks came back, all warrantee work was done with #5 & #9. Inspections were done on all trucks. Everything is up to date.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS - COMMISSIONER MICHEELS

Heat is on low in the firehouse so nothing freezes. The coffee maker has been placed upstairs. Prior to the end of seasonal garbage pickup, Commissioner Micheels was putting out old decking and will resume in the new season.

The heater in the old firehouse is up and working.

Discussed a software program for recording attendance, called SCM. It is a computer system that, through fingerprint, can identify each member and keep track of their attendance at meetings/alarms/drills, which would help rather than using manual books. The cost was in the vicinity of \$20,000.00. This is something that is used in most departments, especially for keeping track of LOSAP requirements. It was suggested that we set up a meeting with the vendors, to perhaps get a demonstration on the equipment and software. It has additional programs that can keep track of vehicle usage. It was suggested that at our March meeting we would meet with the vendors.

Discussion was had regarding personnel and proposed budgeted raises for the new year. We also need applications from the proposed new part-time employees that our current district mechanic has suggested.

CHAIRMAN BOSS adjourned the meeting at 1:18 p.m..