

FIRE ISLAND PINES FIRE DISTRICT
COMMISSIONER MEETING AUGUST 9th, 2025

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY CHAIRMAN BOSS AT 10:10 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
Robert McGarity
Joseph Micheels
Richard Barry, Secretary
Kyle Merker, Department Chief
Jordan Cohen, Assistant Chief

MOTION MADE BY COMMISSIONER COOK, Seconded by Commissioner Rhodes-Teague for the appointment of Joseph Micheels to finish out the remaining term, ending 12/31/25 of former Commissioner Colucchio. Commissioner Boss, McGarity, Rhodes-Teague and Cook all voted in favor.

Commissioner Joseph Micheels was sworn in and signed his Affidavit of Oath of Office, which will be sent to the Town Clerk's office.

Discussion was had regarding our LOSAP Plan. Commissioner McGarity prepared a spreadsheet with three scenarios, that all discussed. We also had a phone conference with the representative of VIFIS regarding our current plan and what we can do for the future.

MOTION MADE BY COMMISSIONER COOK and Seconded by Commissioner McGarity to AMEND THE SERVICE AWARD PROGRAM, to raise the maximum years of service to 40 years and raise the rate to \$20.00 per year of service, effective January 1, 2026 if the voting public approves the referendum. COMMISSIONERS COOK, MCGARITY AND MICHEELS voted in favor. Commissioners Boss and Rhodes-Teague abstained since they are Fire Department members and currently receiving LOSAP benefits. A formal Board resolution is attached to these minutes.

It was agreed to have the community vote on Tuesday, September 30th, 2025 from 3:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. due to ferry services on that day. As per Town Law the vote must take place on a Tuesday.

MOTION MADE BY CHAIRMAN BOSS, Seconded by Commissioner McGarity to accept the meeting minutes of July 8th, 2025. Commissioners Boss, McGarity, Cook and Rhodes-Teague voted in favor. Commissioner Micheels abstained.

- SECRETARY REPORT -

Commissioner McGarity has said he will go to Coastline Freight to see where the battery pack is for the Etryke that was sold by the District. The vendor is still waiting on it.

We discussed Auctions International receipt of payment for the truck. We discussed the Truck Title which one of the Commissioners will sign off on and transfer title to the purchaser. One of the available Commissioners will sign the Title paperwork, and Commissioner McGarity will notarize the signed Title.

A discussion was had regarding the split between the District and Department on the proposed Water Island contract. The Board felt 30% was appropriate, since currently the rate is 27.5%. Chief Merker felt that was appropriate and will take the issue up at the next Department meeting. If the department members approve that figure, the department will issue a letter to the Board advising the same.

- TREASURER'S REPORT -

Discussion was had regarding profit & loss budget versus actual. Also discussed was some 2026 budget requests from the Chief. Also conversation had regarding when the Water Island contract will be provided by the Town.

Discussed outstanding vouchers and pending motions. It was decided to do one motion for all of the following items:

| | |
|--|-------------|
| Snapper Inn, Pines Pantry | \$23,077.00 |
| NAPA | \$ 767.00 |
| Coastline Freight | \$ 747.00 |
| Integrated Wireless Technologies - Siren | \$ 312.00 |
| Pines Pantry | \$ 326.00 |
| Pines Pantry | \$ 178.00 |
| NY Diagnostics - Medical | \$ 200.00 |
| Sayville Ferry | \$ 1,100.00 |
| Firematic | \$ 109.00 |
| Patchogue Advance | \$ 56.00 |
| Arthur Nelsen Electricians | \$ 900.00 |
| Kage Solutions - Internet | \$ 180.00 |
| NY Diagnostics - Medical | \$ 300.00 |
| Coastline Freight | \$ 234.00 |
| Robert T. Fuchs, Esq. | \$ 1,059.00 |
| Emergency Decon Services | \$ 4,450.00 |
| Firematic Supply Company | \$ 905.00 |
| Robert T. Fuchs, Esq. | \$ 1,018.00 |

| | |
|---------------------------|-----------|
| Pines Propane | \$ 255.00 |
| Kage Solutions - Internet | \$ 250.00 |

MOTION MADE by Commissioner Cook, seconded by Commissioner McGarity in the amount of \$36,454.00 for the payment of the listed bills. Commissioners Cook, McGarity, Micheels, Rhodes-Teage and Boss voted in favor with the exception of one voucher payable to Pines Propane. Commissioner Boss abstained.

MOTION MADE by Commissioner Cook, seconded by Commissioner Rhodes-Teague to accept the Treasurer's Report. All Commissioners voted in favor.

- CHIEF'S REPORT -

ACTIVITY REPORT

ALARMS:

| | | |
|-------|---------|---------------------------------------|
| #4024 | 7/14/25 | Pavillion Smoke Detector - False Trip |
| #4025 | 7/27/25 | 355 Sunburst - Electrical Hazard |
| #4026 | 7/30/25 | 230 Bay Walk - False Trip |
| #4027 | 8/4/25 | 573 Coastguard - Smoke (BBQ) |

DRILLS:

| | | |
|-------|---------|---|
| #1401 | 7/9/25 | Pump Ops 5-28-4 and 5-28-7 (Wednesday) |
| #1402 | 7/12/25 | Hose Handling w/SCBA |
| #1403 | 8/2/25 | Review of Pines Party; Harbor Deluge; Donning Doffing (Probies) |
| #1404 | 8/9/25 | Water Island, Hydrant Hook up |

MEETINGS:

| | | |
|-------|---------|--------------------|
| #1493 | 7/12/25 | Department Meeting |
| #1494 | 8/2/25 | Department Meeting |
| #1495 | 8/9/25 | Department Meeting |

WORK DETAIL:

| | | |
|-------|---------|---------------|
| #1384 | 7/26/25 | Community BBQ |
|-------|---------|---------------|

Membership Status:

Connor Beutel - Probation Ending 9/24/25
 Christian Halpin - Probation Ending 9/24/25
 Mark Gazdik has requested a Leave of Absence

Applicants: Michael Pollack & Jallen Messersmith. A conversation was had regarding both applicants. It was agreed that applicant Messersmith's application will be held to the spring.

MOTION MADE by Commissioner Micheels, seconded by Chairman Boss to accept Michael Pollack's application. All Commissioners voted in favor.

Requests/Comments:

A personnel issue was discussed.

Stephen Ibrahim donated a chief's cart to the department, the department has sent a "thank you" for the gesture. 5-28-8 has some repair issues.

Discussion on Water Island Hose Testing

Discussion - Wet Down for new truck.

Uniforms and Turn Out Gear ordered (2024 expense) One outstanding for 2025 expense

Uniforms - placed order for Beutel and Halpin (\$2,400)

Purchase Requests

Gear cleaning and Repairs - Gear that needs repair is going off Island on 8/14

Open Items (previously approved)

Mask for Kevin Call - awaiting delivery

Gloves - received

Gear Rack - ordered - enroute

Batteries for Flashlights - all received

5 Pagers - awaiting pickup

Log Books - on order

2026 Budget Requests

Dress Uniforms (10); Gear Sets (12); blue tooth microphones (2); Nozzles (3); pistol grips (3).

We discussed the chief's cart; radio replacement; hydrant markers; pelican lights; LED retro fit for prisms. It was also suggested by the Chief to dedicate the new truck to Douglas Teague, former Commissioner and Chief of the Department.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Budget & Records - Insurance & LOSAP - Commissioner Cook

Bank reconciliations are done through July 31, 2025. Bank of America has taken off former Commissioners from account. Insurance renewal documentation has been sent to the carrier. The helmet issue was checked with our carrier and if a member is going to an emergency they do not have to wear a helmet so they can access radios.

Two new members should be added to our term life policies. It was determined that we will review the costs of the term life policies and make sure the census is up to date.

GROUND, PR - Commissioner McGarity

Discussed the reports from H2H, discussed the generator, installation and KW's.

ALARMS, ISO, OSHA changes - reconciliations - Commissioner Rhodes-Teague

Bank reconciliations were completed up to 7/31/25; Pink sheets from 7/9 - 8/4/25

APPARATUS, EQUIPMENT, RADIOS - Chairman Boss

Discussed transfer of title of old 5-28-1 and arrival of new vehicle.

MOTION MADE BY COMMISSIONER MICHEELS, seconded by Commissioner McGarity for \$1,200.00 for the shipment of our new vehicle to be shipped to FI PINES. All Commissioners voted in favor.

GRANTS - Commissioner McGarity and Secretary Barry

SAM registration will be renewed at the end of this month. We are still awaiting news from FEMA if we will be receiving funds for bunker gear and SCBA's. Discussed Grant Guys and some additional grant applications.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS:

Due to some members of the Board not being able to attend the September 6th, 2025 meeting, it was determined to change the date to Friday, September 12th, 2025 at 6 p.m.. The preliminary 2026 budget will be addressed at that meeting.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 1:18 P.M.

RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE SERVICE AWARD PROGRAM

WHEREAS, residents of the Fire Island Pines Fire District approved a proposition to establish a Service Award Program for active volunteer firefighter members of the Fire Island Pines Fire Department, effective April 1, 1990, in accordance with Article 11-A of the New York State General Municipal Law.

WHEREAS, the current program being administered by the Board of Fire Commissioners of the Fire Island Pines Fire District permits only 30 years of active service to be credited towards the LOSAP program, and that the plan benefit is based upon \$10.00 per month, times the total years of credited service, with a maximum benefit of \$300.00; and

WHEREAS, the Commissioners believe it to benefit the public to increase the length of credit of a volunteer's time in the LOSAP plan to forty (40) years, and to increase the amount per month upon which the plan benefit is based from \$10.00 to \$20.00, thereby increasing the maximum monthly benefit allowable from \$300.00 to \$800.00, all in order to provide an incentive to continue to increase the time of active service;

WHEREAS, Article 11-A authorizes the Board of Fire Commissioners of the Fire Island Pines Fire District to seek voter approval of proposed amendments to the Service Award Program;

WHEREAS, it is the intention of the Board of Fire Commissioners to propose amendments in order to improve the Service Award Program benefits to active volunteer firefighter members of the Fire Island Pines Fire Department;

WHEREAS, the anticipated average increase in cost of the program is \$23,653.00 per year due to the proposed change.

WHEREAS, such improvement in the Service Award Program benefits is consistent with the intent of the Program to help the Fire Island Pines Fire Department recruit and retain active volunteer firefighter members;

NOW, THEREFORE, THE BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS OF THE FIRE ISLAND PINES FIRE DISTRICT IN THE TOWN OF BROOKHAVEN, SUFFOLK COUNTY, NEW YORK (THE "DISTRICT") HEREBY RESOLVES (by the favorable vote of not less than three-fifths of all its members), AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. The Fire Island Pines Fire District, as authorized by Article 11-A of the New York State General Municipal Law, directs that there shall be a public referendum of eligible voters of the Fire Island Pines Fire District in an election to be held on September 30th, 2025, to determine whether the previously established Fire Island Pines Fire District Defined Benefit Service Award Program (Program), currently administered by the Fire Island Pines Fire District for active volunteer firefighter members of the Fire Island Pines Fire Department, shall be amended, effective January 1, 2026, to increase the maximum number of years allowable

service credit from 30 years to 40 years, and increase the amount per month upon which the plan benefit is based from \$10.00 to \$20.00, thereby increasing the maximum monthly benefit allowable from \$300.00 to \$800.00.

SECTION 2. This resolution is expected to increase the total annual minimum required contribution by about \$23,653.00.

SECTION 3. All other provisions of the Fire Island Pines Fire District Service Award Program, which require voter approval to be amended, shall not change and the Program shall continue to be administered by the Fire Island Pines Fire District in accordance with Article 11-A of the New York State General Municipal Law as such law is amended from time to time.

The polls will be open for the purpose of voting during the aforesaid hours, and the ballot will be in substantially the following form, to wit:

Should the

RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE SERVICE AWARD PROGRAM:






A RESOLUTION OF THE FIRE ISLAND PINES FIRE DISTRICT BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS, AUTHORIZING, PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 11-A OF THE GENERAL MUNICIPAL LAW OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, AN AMENDMENT TO THE EXISTING DEFINED BENEFIT SERVICE AWARD PROGRAM CURRENTLY ADMINISTERED BY THE FIRE ISLAND PINES FIRE DISTRICT FOR ACTIVE VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER MEMBERS OF THE FIRE ISLAND PINES FIRE DEPARTMENT, TO BE EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2026; STATING THAT THE SERVICE AWARD PROGRAM SHALL INCREASE THE MAXIMUM NUMBER OF YEARS OF ALLOWABLE SERVICE CREDIT FROM 30 YEARS TO 40 YEARS; THE AMOUNT PER MONTH UPON WHICH THE PLAN BENEFIT IS BASED FROM \$10.00 TO \$20.00, THEREBY INCREASING THE MAXIMUM MONTHLY BENEFIT ALLOWABLE FROM \$300.00 TO \$800.00; STATING THAT ALL OTHER PROVISIONS OF THE FIRE ISLAND PINES FIRE DISTRICT SERVICE AWARD PROGRAM, WHICH REQUIRE VOTER APPROVAL TO BE AMENDED, SHALL NOT CHANGE AND THE PROGRAM SHALL CONTINUE TO BE ADMINISTERED BY THE FIRE ISLAND PINES FIRE DISTRICT IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 11-A OF THE NEW YORK STATE GENERAL MUNICIPAL LAW AS SUCH LAW IS AMENDED FROM TIME TO TIME.

Duly adopted by the Board of Fire Commissioners of said Fire District on August 9, 2025 be approved?

Those who are qualified to vote on the aforesaid proposition are qualified voters who shall have resided in said Fire Island Pines Fire District for thirty days next preceding such election.

DATED: Fire Island Pines, New York
AUGUST 9, 2025

Commissioner Cook moved the motion, Commissioner McGarity seconded, and the Board of Fire Commissioners voted as follows:

| | YES | NO | ABSTAIN |
|--|----------|----|----------|
|  COMMISSIONER COOK | <u>X</u> | — | — |
|  COMMISSIONER MCGARITY | <u>X</u> | — | — |
|  COMMISSIONER MICHEELS | <u>X</u> | — | — |
|  CHAIRMAN BOSS | — | — | <u>X</u> |
|  VICE CHAIRMAN RHODES-TEAGUE | — | — | <u>X</u> |

By Order of the Board of Fire Commissioners of the
Fire Island Pines Fire District in the Town of
Brookhaven, Suffolk County, New York

BY: 

Richard W. Barry, District Secretary