



BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS MEETING TRANSCRIPT
(AS REQUIRED BY NYS GOVERNOR CUOMO'S EXECUTIVE ORDER 202.1)

June 1, 2020 - 7:00 p.m.

Chief Steenbergh: Okay, all of the, uh, all the guests that were in the waiting room had been admitted into the meeting and I had started the recording. So, Mr. Chairman, whenever you're ready.

Commissioner Chimento: Okay, I'd like to call the meeting to order at 7pm. I'll do a roll call.

Commissioner Chimento: Commissioner Longi?

Commissioner Longi: Here.

Commissioner Chimento: Commissioner Valdez?

Commissioner Valdez: Here.

Commissioner Chimento: Commissioner Griffing?

Commissioner Griffing: Here.

Commissioner Chimento: Commissioner Adams?

Commissioner Adams: Here.

Commissioner Chimento: And I am also present. Umm, we have Chief Steenbergh?

Chief Steenbergh: Here.

Commissioner Chimento: Assistant Chief Philipp?

Assistant Chief Philipp: Here.

Commissioner Chimento: (INAUDIBLE) Violante?

Director of EMS Violante: Here.

Commissioner Chimento: (INAUDIBLE) Director of EMS Violante. Sorry about that. And uh, Secretary O'Neill?

District Secretary O'Neill: Here.

Commissioner Chiumento: And Treasurer Passikoff.

Treasurer Passikoff: Here.

Commissioner Chiumento: Excellent. Uh, "Public Comment Period". I believe I had two sent in, umm, one, is "Why is the AUD for 2019 not done yet?" and there was some verbiage that followed that. Umm, and then other questions or comments were, "Where is the proposed Personnel Administrator position in the 2020 budget?", "What line item in the budget? and "How much is budgeted for this position?". And that was the feedback that I received or that Renee received. Umm, so I'll take "Comments from the Board".

Commissioner Adams: Oh, I have one comment, Mr. Chairman. Not related to the uh, comments from the public. But if it's appropriate to comment now, I (INAUDIBLE).

Commissioner Chiumento: Yeah, sure, go ahead.

Commissioner Adams: I happen to see the sixth ward Councilperson today, and she related to me that she had just had a conversation with Jacob Reckess and they're prepared to close so that project will be going forward.

Commissioner Chiumento: Thanks for the information. Okay. Any other comments? (PAUSE) Okay. Hearing none, I will go on to Abstract approval. Do I hear a motion for the Abstract?

Commissioner Adams: Move to approve Abstract 20-...(FEEDBACK) Okay, go ahead Pete.

Commissioner Longi: Oh.

Commissioner Adams: (PAUSE) I'll do it. Move to approve Abstract 60, I'm sorry 20-6A, this consists of \$22,624.52 in paid with a total of 7 checks and \$52,468.26 in unpaid bills with a total of 31 checks for grand total \$75,092.78 totaling 38 checks.

Commissioner Chiumento: Motion made. Is there a second?

Commissioner Longi: Second.

Commissioner Chiumento: Second by Commissioner Longi. Umm, I'll do a roll call. Commissioner Valdez?

Commissioner Valdez: Aye.

Commissioner Chiumento: Commissioner Griffing?

Commissioner Griffing: Aye.

Commissioner Chiumento: Commissioner Longi?

Commissioner Longi: Aye.

Commissioner Chiumento: Commissioner Adams?

Commissioner Adams: Aye.

Commissioner Chiumento: And Commissioner Chiumento is an Aye. Approved. Next, is the Minutes for the Board meeting of May 18, 2020. Uh, do I hear a motion?

Commissioner Longi: Motion to approve.

Commissioner Chiumento: Motion made by Commissioner Longi.

Commissioner Griffing: I'll second it.

Commissioner Chiumento: Seconded by Commissioner Griffing. Any discussion? (PAUSE) Okay, I'll do a roll call. Commissioner Valdez?

Commissioner Valdez: Aye.

Commissioner Chiumento: Commissioner Griffing?

Commissioner Griffing: Aye.

Commissioner Chiumento: Commissioner Longi?

Commissioner Longi: Aye.

Commissioner Chiumento: Commissioner Adams?

Commissioner Adams: Aye.

Commissioner Chiumento: And Commissioner Chiumento is an Aye. Uh, "Monthly Committee Reports".

District Secretary O'Neill: Chairman Chiumento, can you do the acknowledgement of the transcript first?

Commissioner Chiumento: Oh, sorry. I always miss that. Yes, we acknowledge the May 18, 2020 transcript and all your hard work in getting it completed. Umm, "Monthly Committee Reports"?

Commissioner Valdez: Commissioner Valdez. Uh, Service Awards. Uh, received an email dated uh, May 29, 2020 from PenFlex regarding COVID and LOSAP legislation passes. That's it.

Commissioner Chiumento: Thank you. Anybody have anything else?

Chief Steenbergh: I have, I have some information on that. If you want to talk about that now or we can wait till, uh, you get to my section, whatever you prefer.

Commissioner Chiumento: Uh, you can do right now.

Chief Steenbergh: Okay. Uh, I reached out to PenFlex, uh, to see what, uh, they were offering a sample resolution, uh, for the Board to consider, should the Governor uh, sign that bill that has passed both houses, uh, in Albany. Uh, there is a \$300 fee associated with having PenFlex, uh, provide a draft resolution for you to uh, consider if you want to just, uh, give me some direction on how you would like to go with

that, please. Should the Governor sign it, if the Governor doesn't sign it, uh, then it's all academic.

Commissioner Chiumento: I guess the question would they be less expensive or the attorney?

Chief Steenbergh: That's, that's the question. I'm sure it's, I'm sure it's boilerplate. Uh, I guess the first question is, is, is the Board interested in, in discussing, uh, the provisions of that law, uh, and, and, uh, taking a look at, uh, what a draft resolution would look like. I can certainly have one, uh, prepared wherever I can, you know, find not necessarily a better deal, but, uh, something that's better suited to, uh, our application. Uh, I, I wanted to just hear from you all whether you even wanted to entertain the discussion amongst yourselves.

Commissioner Adams: I'd like to give it another two weeks.

Commissioner Chiumento: I mean my thought is, I'd be interested in pursuing it as far as the umm, the points awarding and such. It's just a question of, you know, A, does he sign it and B, is a change any at that point or what exactly will happen to it. But yeah, I don't have a problem, pursuing that option.

Chief Steenbergh: Okay, so I will follow that. And if it turns out that the Governor signs it then, uh, I'll look to get you some sample wording that you can discuss at a future meeting.

Commissioner Chiumento: It sounds good. Any other committee reports? If not, there uh, was no "Correspondence", other than what was previously mentioned in questions to the Board. Umm, "Actions to be taken by the Board" we do, uh, nothing there. "Donations". Uh, we had a donation from the Finches, uh, assistance received for \$100. Do I hear a motion?

Commissioner Adams: I move that we, I move that we accept that donation put it in the General Fund and send a letter of appre...thanks to the, uh, Finch's.

Commissioner Chiumento: Motion made. Is there a second?

Commissioner Longi: I'll second it.

Commissioner Chiumento: Motion made and seconded. Any discussion? (PAUSE) Hearing none, I'll do a roll call. Uh, Commissioner Longi?

Commissioner Longi: Aye.

Commissioner Chiumento: Commissioner Valdez?

Commissioner Valdez: Aye.

Commissioner Chiumento: Commissioner Griffing?

Commissioner Griffing: Aye.

Commissioner Chiumento: Commissioner Adams?

Commissioner Adams: Aye.

Commissioner Chiumento: And Commissioner Chiumento is an Aye. Motion approved. Any "Commissioners Items"? (PAUSE) Okay, hearing none, we'll move on to "District Staff Items". Uh, Chief Steenbergh go right ahead.

Chief Steenbergh: Good evening. Thank you. First, uh, item number one on, uh, on the agenda, uh, you've previously been provided with a Stipulation of Agreement proposal, uh, between the Fire District and the Local, uh, if, if umm, you are so inclined to adopt that now, or if you would prefer to, to, table that and we could discuss it in executive session and, and, revisit it after that. (PAUSE)

Commissioner Chiumento: I like to go to Executive Session.

Chief Steenbergh: Okay.

Commissioner Chiumento: Okay.

Chief Steenbergh: Umm, next, next thing, umm, I would ask the, uh, I asked the Board to consider scheduling a special meeting for the purpose of going into Executive Session with the Local. We have a number of topics uh, that require, uh, discussion with them, uh, in Executive Session and under the newest guidelines from the Governor's office since we would be able to stay under the 10 person uh, cap, my suggestion would be that we schedule a meeting, uh, in person. Uh, we can configure the meeting room so as to maintain the, the, appropriate social distancing. Uh, and I think the, the, uh, conversation, uh, would be more productive if we were able to do an in person meeting. Uh, we're not yet able to do, uh, open to the public Board meeting and comfortably be sure that we're going to stay under the 10 person, uh, maximum. So I, I, think for regular meetings, uh, we can need to continue with, with the Zoom platform. But, uh, for this uh, Executive Session that I would like you to consider, I do believe that, uh, it would be more productive to, to do that in person at Headquarters.

Commissioner Chiumento: And the Executive Session would fall under?

Chief Steenbergh: Uh, there would be negotiations, contractual and it would be employment history of, uh, three individuals.

Commissioner Chiumento: Okay, so that is fine. So we would then just do, we'd have to make it a regular meeting that we immediately adjourn to Executive Session and that we expect to have no action taken?

Chief Steenbergh: Correct.

Commissioner Chiumento: Yeah, that's fine with me.

Chief Steenbergh: I would, I would propose, uh, either perhaps Thursday of this week or Monday of next week depending upon uh, availability and scheduling of, of members of the Board.

Commissioner Adams: Either is okay for Adams.

Commissioner Longi: I'm open for both. Pete Longi.

Commissioner Valdez: Valdez. Both.

Commissioner Griffing: Griffing, available for both.

Commissioner Chiumento: I prefer Monday.

Treasurer Passikoff: Monday is not good for me. It's Jim.

Chief Steenbergh: Uh, we would, we would probably be okay without the Treasurer, Mr. Chairman, but that's your discretion.

Commissioner Chiumento: Yeah. I'm not exactly really sure what it is, but if you don't think the Treasurer's input would be needed, that would be fine. I think Thursday would be.. (INAUDIBLE, FEEDBACK FROM MICS)

Chief Steenbergh: Uh, I think for uh, the purposes of, of, moving the discussion forward uh, I think we would be fine for Monday night. (PAUSE) Jim, what time does your other meeting start, could we...

Treasurer Passikoff: Seven.

Chief Steenbergh: Uh, is anybody interested in doing something a little earlier Monday, so that we could have the Treasurer there? Is that a possibility?

Commissioner Chiumento: I can do as early as five.

Commissioner Griffing: Griffing here. 5 o'clock.

Commissioner Valdez: Yeah. Five is good, Valdez.

Commissioner Longi: Longi, good for five.

Commissioner Adams: Adams. Okay.

Chief Steenbergh: So if, if, we could do five and then if, if, we're not done by 7 o'clock or 6:30 when uh, the Treasurer has to leave, then, then we could wrap up without him perhaps.

Commissioner Chiumento: Okay. That sounds good.

Chief Steenbergh: Okay. Uh, next, next item, I was contacted by the, uh, Supervisor. Uh, he was asking uh, about the consolidation study. Uh, he wanted to know if we had developed a list of questions and he was asking for the name of a person who would be a contact between the Fire District and the Board and the Town Board, uh, as they continue or at least start the process of going through that, uh, consolidation study.

Commissioner Chiumento: Do they want like somebody they can catch during the day, like you, or do they want one on the Board?

Chief Steenbergh: Uh, he didn't specifically say, but I, I believe that it would be somebody who's available during the daytime.

Commissioner Chiumento: Then you are probably the best, uh, person for that.

Chief Steenbergh: Okay.

Commissioner Chiumento: Unless you...I don't..unless if somebody else and daytime Commissioner that would be available days.

Commissioner Adams: Adams. I'm currently available, but I, I, there's a threshold issue here. Are we after hearing the proposal that the (INAUDIBLE) interesting in going further on consolidation?

Commissioner Chiumento: You don't think it's going to be financially feasible. That's just my take. But...

Commissioner Longi: Yeah, that's really gonna be..(INAUDIBLE, FEEDBACK FROM MICS)

Commissioner Chiumento: You're talking a new firehouse, you're talking millions. And right now with COVID and everything else.

(FEEDBACK FROM MICS)

Commissioner Adams: Commissioner Adams here. I suppose, as a matter of courtesy, we can listen for a while, but uh, again, I'm skeptical.

Chief Steenbergh: I would, I would certainly like to see us at least go to a meeting and uh, hear what the Town's thoughts were on it and then, uh, uh, whether it's myself or a member of the Board, but, umm, you know, kind of take the Board, take the Town's temperature on where they are with this and bring that back to all five of you, uh, and then have a conversation about where you'd like to go next.

Commissioner Chiumento: That's fine. Again, is there a Commissioner available that can make daytime type meetings or not?

Commissioner Longi: I'm available right now most of the time so I can help out with that for a while, at least. I'm not working right now. So like my days are open.

Commissioner Chiumento: Good start though, right?

Commissioner Longi: Yeah.

Commissioner Chiumento: I, so...

Commissioner Adams: You're not downstairs then? In Town Hall?

Commissioner Longi: No, I've been, off, laid off since mid March.

Commissioner Adams: Ooh.

Commissioner Chiumento: Oh, so umm, I guess if you want to do it for the time being and if you run into problems get back to us with you know, if you can't do daytime meetings and then we'll switch up if we have to.

Commissioner Longi: Now, are there any meetings as of now? Do you know of anything?

Chief Steenbergh: No, the Supervisor, the Supervisor just asked me for a point of contact and wanted to know if we had developed any questions based off of the presentation that we all went to.

Commissioner Longi: I don't think we have as far as, (INAUDIBLE) Umm, I don't know what the general consensus was, but it was real expensive to uh, with that proposal that we did see, so..

Commissioner Chiumento: And the only way I could even possibly think about it is if we were replacing Headquarters with a new building. But uh, own Headquarters and then have a whole another building, at that cost, would be tough. But we're gonna need to put a lot of money in Headquarters. You can sit in, keep us advised, but yeah. We'll see what turns up and if you end up uh, by not being able to make meetings, then coordinate with myself and the Chief and we'll see who we can get to go.

Chief Steenbergh: Okay, I understand.

Commissioner Longi: Alright.

Chief Steenbergh: Oh, just an update on the, uh, the Raymond Avenue School project, the uh, uh, the Board adopted or the Town Board, sorry, adopted a resolution of moving the PILOT forward. It specifically says that, uh, the Fire District is not a part of that and that the Fire District of at this point is fully taxable. Uh, I uh, confirm that with, with Judy in advance to make sure that I wasn't miss reading something, umm, and I spoke to Judy today. Uh, the Raymond Avenue School project is on the agenda for June 4th with the Dutchess County IDA and uh, once again, she's gonna just verify my understanding that, umm, what is on the table before them, uh, specifically exempts the Fire District, but that would be, uh, what it, uh, what it appears to be uh, at, at this point. So unless she finds something that got missed uh, the same, uh, the same situation will be true with the IDA action that it specifically exempts the, the Fire District from the PILOT. Uh, my understanding from talking to the developer is that uh, his, his closing with the school district was going to happen uh, towards the middle of this month that uh, the last conversation he had with the school district was that they were not willing to give him any more extensions past that, uh, I forget, it was either June 14th or June 15th was a, was a hard closing date and the school board had indicated that, that they were not inclined to give him any more extensions. I, I, don't know exactly where that conversation stands at the moment that, uh, my last conversation with Mr. Reckess was, uh, a week or 10 days ago, at this point, so, uh, I'll keep you, uh, I'll keep you up to date on, on the progress of that, uh, but that's what it appears to be uh, at the present time.

Chief Steenbergh: Uh, I wanted to, uh, advise the Board that uh, the Fire District applied for uh, what is called a uh, "Assistance to Firefighters Grant Supplemental" which was uh, a specific grant program that FEMA put out, uh, specifically directed towards COVID-19, uh, and it's mostly for personal protective equipment and it is divided into three categories, reimbursement for expenses up to date, immediate expenses which uh, I, in our application I defined to be as for the remainder of this year and then uh, future needs which I, for the purposes of the grant defined as calendar year 20-21. So basically, covering a two year window of, of all of our cleaning supplies and PPE and uh, the EMS Director did a tremendous amount of research for me and uh, helped calculate out how fast we were going through the different types of PPE. Uh, our budget application to, uh, FEMA turned out to be \$172,363.78 and I would expect within the next four to six weeks, we would have an answer of how much, if any of that proposal was funded by FEMA and uh, there is a 10% cost

match from the Fire District. So, uh, if we were to be awarded all of it, our match would work out to be \$15,669 which umm, we'll just have to see what, what happens, uh, in the review process. But we did, we did apply for reimbursement. We still have, uh, we still have the ability to go to FEMA under the "Disaster Declaration" and get, uh, expenses related to the COVID-19 reimbursed. Uh, I have specifically held off on that because you have to be careful that you don't double dip to the federal government and I don't want to apply uh, to FEMA for funds to find out that we get a chunk of money on this supplemental grant and uh, I think it'll just keep the bookkeeping a lot straighter if we wait until we know what we get from the one reimbursement stream uh, before we go, pursuing a, a, different one. Uh, the good news about, uh, going through the "Disaster Declaration", uh, that one will allow us to, uh, recover some or most of our overtime costs, uh, in addition to, uh, PPE and cleaning supplies. The, the \$172,000 uh, grant application that I'm talking to you about, uh, specifically was, did not include anything related to manpower. So that was specifically for PPE and, and cleaning supplies so, uh, we still have, you still have the opportunity to go to FEMA and get uh, a good chunk of our overtime expenses back related, uh, to the COVID emergency and excuse me I'm gonna let, uh, I'm gonna let the EMS Director uh, give you a little more of an update about where we are in house with response and things like that. I will tell you that, in, in, general terms, we've started to, uh, roll back and loosen up some of the restrictions operationally that we put into, into, place. Uh, originally we had people uh, pretty much locked down into working in one station. We had stopped people moving from station to station. Uh, I've talked to you about a lot of those things over the last few meetings. Uh, at this point, we've taken the first step towards loosening that up, which is to kind of divide the District North and South, so, uh, now people are allowed to move in between the North Battalion and the South Battalion so, uh, we started last week with hose testing. You need two companies to get together to really have the manpower to do the hose testing so, uh, Headquarters and Rochdale can get together and Red Oaks Mills and Croft can get together and you know we're still practicing social distancing and doing all those appropriate things, but we're starting to let people move around a little bit. And my goal is to try and be back to a more normal operation, uh, towards the end of this month or the first couple days of July, because I, I suspect that by the time we get the 4th of July weekend, there's going to be, uh, pretty heavy utilization of, of benefit time. All the people who didn't get to take spring vacations, I think is just going to really double up in July and August and will need the flexibility of, of being able to move people around a little more in order to, uh to manage the benefit times and stay on top of uh, how we deploy people, uh and it will help save us some overtime by being able to move people around.

Chief Steenbergh: Uh, I'm not sure how much was reported in my absence, uh, at the last meeting, but, uh, just an update on the Personnel Administrator position. Uh, we did, we did take out an ad with HudsonValleyHelpWanted.com, uh that, that listing uh, was seen by 11,279 people. Uh, there were 123 people who clicked on it to open it and view it. And out of that, we received, uh, a total of 10 resumes. So up to this point, I have, uh, reviewed the 10 resumes. Umm, six of those did not meet the posted requirements, uh, and either were not, uh, would not be eligible to take the, the County test when it was offered or did not meet other requirements that we had put in the job description. So the next step, uh, will be to conduct phone interviews with the four

applicants who based on their resumes appear to be uh, qualified. So more, more, to follow on that.

Chief Steenbergh: Uh, the last thing I have, for the, for the, open session or no, I'm sorry, two more things. Umm, I received an email that was forwarded to me this afternoon from, uh, the Chairman regarding the graduation at Arlington High School. I don't have a lot of information at this point. I, I did reach out to the Chief of LaGrange since the Arlington High School is in the LaGrange Fire District and I'm waiting to see uh, what their intentions are and what their plans are and uh, they're, the, the email that was sent to the Chairman, uh, basically talks about the college trying to hold a graduation for the students. It's divided into four sessions over June 15th and June 16th and they were asking for all of the fire departments who are in the service area of the Arlington School District to participate and uh, attend with fire engines and uh, manpower to help cheer on the graduating class and things of that nature. And at this point, that's about as much as I know, but umm, June 5th, June 15th is not that far away and, uh, I didn't want to wait to the next meeting and have it be, uh, a last minute uh, last minute kind of thing and not be able to give you a heads up. Umm, in fact, the June, June 15th would be the date of our next meeting. So the first session, I'm sorry, the first two sessions the 15th in the morning and the afternoon will have happened before, uh, the next time you all meet. Uh, if I have something uh, further, you know, in time to give you Monday night for the next meeting, we could do that quickly before we went into Executive Session, but, umm, I wanted to at least let you know that that we, we, had been contacted by the school district.

Commissioner Chiumento: Yeah, I received that this afternoon and my, I received that this afternoon and I thought, umm, you know, it would be nice to be able to participate. Uh, however, the problem is with you know career staff and it being out of the District, it's not something that we can just send a rig to.

(INAUDIBLE, FEEDBACK FROM MICS)

Chief Steenbergh: Probably would propose to the Board, would be that we use, uh, reserve rigs and I would see if the, the Union, uh, would be willing to provide the manpower. I'm, I'm, pretty sure that, uh, that they would be interested in helping with that.

Commissioner Chiumento: And that maybe, that's why I sent it to you whether you might have some other ideas on, on ways to do it. So..

Chief Steenbergh: I, I, I'm pretty confident that the, uh, Local would be interested in helping with that.

Commissioner Chiumento: Excellent.

Chief Steenbergh: Uh, the last thing I have and umm, I'm just going to give you the information now because I, I didn't get anything out to you in email ahead of time, but uh, I spoke to you all a couple months ago that we needed to do a capital project this spring related to firefighter safety and, and some equipment and, and, umm, I just want to put the information out there. I'll follow this up with an email so that maybe at the next meeting, we can start, uh, conversation, but the, umm, firefighter bailout systems were required to have, uh, the rope systems so that firefighters can bail out, uh, from upper floors in the event of,

uh, an emergency those units are at, uh, end of life. They need to be replaced, this year. Umm, we've had a committee together from, uh, from the career staff and they have, uh, they've tried just about every device that's on the market. They looked at things. They got demonstrator units, uh, and at Headquarters, they were able to practice doing bailouts, uh, through the training window. The committee has made a recommendation back to me. I think, I think, it's well researched and, uh, and very well done. Uh, the price for the bailouts uh, are in the 80, 88, \$87,000 range. Uh, we'd have to go out to bid so we may save a little bit on the bidding process. Umm, but I, you know, we're probably in that ballpark. Uh, I've spoken to you previously about the fact that the washing machine at Headquarters is, uh, on its last leg, uh, particularly with the amount of use that it gets at Headquarters. And umm, what I would like to do is explore the possibility of getting a heavier duty larger washer for Headquarters and then try to stretch out whatever life is left in the washer that we have currently by moving it down to Red Oaks Mills. Uh, that projects in the 10 to \$12,000 range. Uh, I've talked to you previously about umm, we need to do something different with the Nomex hoods that firefighters wear. We've now had umm, just within the last couple years, last handful of years, we've had three firefighters in the Fire District come up with various types of neck and throat area cancers. Umm, this is something that's a problem. Uh, at least nationwide, if not worldwide where, uh, where the science is now showing us that what we've been wearing for Nomex hoods is not the proper level of protection to protect uh, interior firefighters, uh, when they go into all the, the toxic smoke environments of, of modern day fires. We need to upgrade, uh, the, the quality of the hood that we're providing to the members to try and reduce the instances of, of these, uh, throat and neck cancers. Uh, what I'd like to do and what we envision is a, is a hood exchange where every, every interior member would have a hood and then umm, there would be a supply at each of the stations, so that if your hood got used on a call, uh, you would come back, you would get one off the shelf and then the hood that you were wearing, which is now contaminated, would come back to either Headquarters uh, or station 3, 4 for laundering and then instead of having a mask, but I'm sorry, instead of having a hood issued to you uh, it would be on a, on a one for one rotating basis around the Fire District. So every time you used it when you came back from that call you would get a clean hood, uh and we would take care of laundering uh, the contaminated one back at Headquarters. So that's, that's about \$10,000. And then lastly, Chief Gallante when they bought turnout gear, uh, during his administration, we had set up, uh, kind of an ongoing program of buying turnout gear to stay ahead of the, uh, the life expectancy issue of having all of the gear go bad in the same year, and we would be faced with, uh, this astronomical replacement costs. Uh, with, with some of the things that have happened in the last couple years with new employees, we've been spending our turnout gear allotment on new employees and we have not been upgrading and replacing some of the older gear that's out in the street, and umm, we need uh, we need uh, uh, to get caught up in that respect. We have uh, uh, a handful of, of sets of gear out there that we need, uh, to get, uh upgraded and, and out of service, uh, before it becomes, uh, unsafe for the guys to wear that. So, uh, what, I, what I'm doing and what I'm proposing is we're kind of packaging all of this together. Uh, whether it's a permissive referendum out of capital equipment, or whether it's something that you would entertain doing out of the fund balance, uh, when you add all those things up you're in the \$125,000 range. So I will get something out to you in the next few days to give you, uh, all of the detail on that, but

I would like to start a conversation with the Board about moving forward with this capital project for, uh, firefighter safety equipment. And that would be, uh, the hood exchange program, uh, a larger, new washer for Headquarters, uh, the couple of handful of sets of turnout gear and the bailout emergency escape systems that we are required, uh by OSHA to replace this year because their end of life. So, uh, my apologies for not getting that out to you in advance, uh, so that we can have more of a discussion tonight, but I want to do at least get the information out to you so that, uh, by the time we meet next, I'll be able to better answer your questions and, and we can keep the conversation going forward.

Commissioner Adams: (INAUDIBLE) Would this (INAUDIBLE) be calendar year?

Chief Steenbergh: I'm, I'm sorry, I couldn't hear you.

Commissioner Adams: (INAUDIBLE) Would this be this one time this calendar year, that we'll have to address this issue?

Chief Steenbergh: Yes, that is correct. (PAUSE) And it would actually this topic would then, uh, would then be set for, you know, the next several years. The turnout gear has, turnout gear has, roughly a 10 year life expectancy, the hoods should have roughly about the same, the washer that we have now is somewhere in the neighborhood of 15 to 20 years old and, umm, the bailout systems, I believe, have a 10 year life. Umm, so all of these, all of these things are, are truly capital projects. Uh, they only come up once in a decade, for the most part, and, uh, the turnout gear, uh, really only became an issue with, uh, we had a crop of, of new hires and the money that we allotted in the Chiefs budget for turnout gear that would be replacing existing gear went towards new, uh, employees instead. So we fell a little behind, uh, in our replacement schedule.

Commissioner Longi: Chief, any possibilities on grant for any of that. Any grants available?

Chief Steenbergh: The, the grants..the problem with doing grants for uh, turnout gear and air packs is roughly the same. The, the, the Fire Act, the AFG program requires the stuff to be out of service and essentially unsafe to use and, uh, I don't, I don't like the idea of, of asking people to use things that is beyond its recognized uh, date. Arguably, it's unsafe, eh, you know, in the hopes that we can pursue a grant and then, uh, if we don't get the grant, then you're two years out of date with this stuff. Uh, the rules of the grant will not allow you to even apply for it uh, until it's at, until it's past end of life. It's, it's one of the things that I dislike the most about that grant program that tends to reward people, uh, who have not done the right thing uh, and allowed something to get to the crisis level and uh, obviously we, we try not to do that here. We, you know, we would normally prefer to replace something on schedule before it becomes a liability to the Fire District and unsafe for the members to use.

Commissioner Longi: I do.

Chief Steenbergh: Okay, uh, that is my list. I have a number of things for Executive Session, uh, unless anybody has questions for me.

Commissioner Griffing: Chief if I missed it, how many, uh, sets of gear is that purchasing every year? What we doing every year to keep up with that?

Chief Steenbergh: uh, we were trying to get between, you know, five, eight. Somewhere in that neighborhood of, of sets of year, gear a year.

Commissioner Griffing: Okay, thanks.

Chief Steenbergh: Okay, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Commissioner Chiumento: Thank you. Umm, next, will be Assistant Chief Philipp.

Assistant Chief Philipp: The only thing I have is, you can see uh, a little, little lower down under school requests, we got three volunteers that are hopefully going to get into the, umm, Ulster County Firefighter one class. It's a, like a two and a half week, uh, all day class. So I'm just hoping for your support to uh, approve them tonight so they can attend to that. The only reason that really on here is because it's out of county as opposed to in Dutchess, but it's just over on the other side of the river in Highland. That's all I have.

Commissioner Chiumento: Actually closer to the most to Dutchess.

Assistant Chief Philipp: Right, exactly.

Commissioner Chiumento: Okay, so, Director of EMS Violante.

Director of EMS Violante: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Uh, I'd like to first, uh, thank everybody, uh, for all of their work during EMS Week, uh, especially all of our membership uh, and staff. Uh, it was pretty good week. And I'd like to also give a good shout out to the folks at Vassar Brothers Medical Center, Mid Hudson Regional Hospital and to uh, the folks at Rudy's Bagels over on Vassar Road in support of the Fire District in all of its personnel. Uh, they all supported us throughout the week, uh, a few times with some different refreshments and meals and things. So, uh, thanks to those folks. Uh, and again, thanks to all of our Fire District and all the personnel for everything they do not only during EMS week but every week.

Director of EMS Violante: Uh, secondly, we, uh, have started doing antibody testing at Arlington uh, in conjunction with Pulse MD Urgent Care folks. And what they're doing is coming down to the firehouse at Headquarters, uh, on one day of the week, so that we can capture each group, uh, to get antibody testing. They're doing blood draws so it has a higher specificity uh, than the regular finger strick, umm, finger stick test for antibodies and umm, then, uh, letting our staff know sort of where they stand on their own. The Fire District doesn't get any information from this, but it's a good thing to offer our folks to give them a peace of mind letting them know uh, where they are and uh, where they stand. And so we would definitely like to make that available to the Commissioners, if that's anything that they would like to take a part of please reach out to me and let me know. Uh, we will be offering this to our volunteer membership as well as soon as we get through our career staff uh, and can figure out a better way and hopefully things will open

up a little bit easier for us to be able to take care of all of, of our volunteers as well. Uh, so we're continuing to do that, that's currently being done on Wednesday's.

Director of EMS Violante: Uh, we have, uh, the, umm, couple of things coming up with the State. One of them is that we just got our limited lab license renewal, uh, that came through. It took a little while to get that taken care of. Umm, but that's something that happens on a two year basis. Also on a two year basis are our Certificate of Need recertification's for our Ambulance Agency and or ALS First Response Agency. Those are all due at the end of this year. And so, uh, we received some of the information from the State and will be working on getting those things taken care of for those renewals as well. Uh, so that's coming down the line too.

Director of EMS Violante: Uh, you'll see, uh that in the Abstract, the Zoll contract for maintenance uh, is now an annual contract with them for all of our monitor defibrillators. Uh, and so these are medical devices. We've had this contract in place, uh, going far back, uh, since we've had them and uh, it, includes uh, PM and maintenance, discounts for supplies, batteries, things like that, next day loaner swaps and, and, those kinds of things. Moving to an annual basis has certainly helped us in terms of budgeting, uh, so we don't end up getting, uh, you know, three years or two years of, of, these in one budget cycle. So, umm, it's still far less than it had been even back in uh, 2014. Uh, so that's the reason for that amount in the Zoll contract there.

Director of EMS Violante: In terms of calls related to COVID, the actual call volume for COVID cases has decreased, uh, but the uh, typical and regular acuity of patients overall has increased as people have stayed home and not gone to the hospital. Uh, and so we're seeing a, you know, an increase in the acuity of those kinds of, of patients, that's a sort of across the board among agencies. Uh, we've been part of a regional EMS and interagency task force uh, that's gotten together twice a week and then now once a week for the past couple of months, uh, to sort of, uh, get ahead of some of the issues related to COVID, call volume, PPE, search capacities, search planning, things like that. Uh, the latest thing that we've been talking about is some of the civil unrest issues that are that are potentially coming down the line uh, and so folks across all of the region of seeing the same kind of thing in their agencies as well. Uh, so that's where we stand as related to COVID and some other things going on the EMS of it.

Director of EMS Violante: Uh, they has, uh, put a bunch of CME's online for core and non-core, since people have not been able to do that. Uh, they've also extended out, uh, people's certifications by a year at the State level and other required certifications like AHA, CPR, ACLS and PALS. Uh, those have been extended by those agencies by 90 to 120 days as well. So everyone is still doing, uh, fine. We're all in good shape. And, uh, you know, keeping, keeping a pulse on it and try to keep ahead of any way that comes down the line with other agencies and all the other colleagues in EMS and emergency services. Uh, that's about all I have. Unless there's any questions for me.

Director of EMS Violante: You're muted Ralph. (PAUSE) Uh, Mr. Chairman, you're muted there. Uh, unless there's anything else for me, that's all I have. Thank you.

Commissioner Chiumento: (INAUDIBLE). Thanks, Dave. Umm, and, uh, thank you very much. I know stuff's coming at you very quickly, you do a nice job staying on top of it.

Director of EMS Violante: Thank you very much to all of us working together that's, uh, pulling us through this. So thank you.

Commissioner Chiumento: Anybody have anything for uh, Director Violante? (PAUSE) Hearing nothing, we'll move on to the Treasurer. Treasurer Passikoff?

Treasurer Passikoff: I have no, uh, report. It's too early in the month.

Commissioner Chiumento: Okay. Any word on the AUD?

Treasurer Passikoff: Uh, I expect it will be sent in by the end of the week.

Commissioner Chiumento: And we got an extension?

Treasurer Passikoff: We got an extension. I haven't heard back from Albany, but I think we had, I, I don't think there's going to be any problem with it.

Commissioner Chiumento: Okay. So you haven't heard back, it should be done by the end of the week. So I would expect by next meeting that its been submitted?

Treasurer Passikoff: Yes, and I send out a copy to everybody, when I send it in to Albany.

Commissioner Chiumento: Thank you. Anything else? (PAUSE) That is it Treasurer?

Treasurer Passikoff: That's it. Yes.

Commissioner Chiumento: Thank you. Move on the "School Requests" as the, uh, Assistant Chief alluded to earlier. We have three on the agenda. Umm, New York Firefighter one June 6th through July 20, 2020 in Highland, New York. Galvin Kerr, no costs, not requesting use of District vehicle Derrick Ryone, no costs, not requesting use of District vehicle and Michael Garofalo, no costs, not requesting use of District vehicle. DO I hear a motion?

Commissioner Longi: Motion to approve.

Commissioner Chiumento: Motion made to approve by Commissioner Longi.

Commissioner Adams: Second. Adams.

Commissioner Chiumento: (INAUDIBLE) Commissioner Adams. Any discussion? (PAUSE) All in favor? (INAUDIBLE, ALL TALKING AT ONCE) Forget it, I'll do a roll call. My fault. Commissioner Longi?

Commissioner Longi: Aye.

Commissioner Chiumento: Commissioner Valdez?

Commissioner Valdez: Aye.

Commissioner Chiumento: Commissioner Griffing?

Commissioner Griffing: Aye.

Commissioner Chiumento: Commissioner Adams?

Commissioner Adams: Aye.

Commissioner Chiumento: And Commissioner Chiumento is an Aye. And I too, I will be very happy for in person meetings. Items for Executive Session? Chief, you had a couple?

Chief Steenbergh: Mr. Chairman, I have, uh, nine items related to the employment history of individuals and one item that would imperil the public safety.

Commissioner Chiumento: Okay. Anyone else have anything for Executive Session? (PAUSE) Okay. Hearing none, do I hear a motion to go to Executive Session?

Commissioner Longi: So moved. Longi.

Commissioner Chiumento: Second?

Commissioner Adams: Adams.

Commissioner Chiumento: Second Commissioner Adams any discussion? (PAUSE) All in favor? Commissioner Longi?

Commissioner Longi: Aye.

Commissioner Chiumento: Commissioner Valdez?

Commissioner Valdez: Aye.

Commissioner Chiumento: Commissioner Griffing?

Commissioner Griffing: Aye.

Commissioner Chiumento: Commissioner Adams?

Commissioner Adams: Aye.

Commissioner Chiumento: And myself is a Aye as well. Umm, okay, Chief based on the items do you have anybody who should not go into Executive Session with us?

Chief Steenbergh: Umm, wee could start with uh, everybody and then, uh, perhaps excuse a couple people as, as we go through my list.

Commissioner Chiumento: Okay, very good.

Chief Steenbergh: So if you would give me a moment to uh, I'm going to put the guests back in the waiting room, and then I will let you know when it's, uh, okay, to continue.

(BOARD ADJOURNS TO EXECUTIVE SESSION)

Chief Steenbergh: Okay, so, uh, we've let everybody from the waiting room back into the meeting and I have started the recording once again, Mr. Chairman.

Commissioner Chiumento: Okay, so there's a couple items from Executive Session. Uh, do I hear a motion to approve the Stipulation of Agreement for a Firefighter Merritt?

Commissioner Adams: I so moved (INAUDIBLE, FEEDBACK FROM MIC)

Commissioner Chiumento: ...firefighter Adams. Is there a second?

Commissioner Valdez: Second.

Commissioner Chiumento: Commissioner Valdez is a second. I'll go through umm, a roll call. Commissioner Longi?

Commissioner Longi: Aye. (MUFFLED)

Commissioner Chiumento: Commissioner Longi is an Aye. Commissioner Valdez?

Commissioner Valdez: Aye.

Commissioner Chiumento: Commissioner Griffing?

Commissioner Griffing: Aye.

Commissioner Chiumento: Commissioner Adams?

Commissioner Adams: Aye.

Commissioner Chiumento: And Commissioner Chiumento is an Aye. Ahh, is there a motion to make a temporary promotional appointment of Matt Nielson to Firefighter Mechanic with the date to be set by the Chief?

Commissioner Longi: So moved. I'll make the motion.

Commissioner Chiumento: So moved, Commissioner Longi.

Commissioner Griffing: Griffing. I'll second it.

Commissioner Chiumento: Seconded. I'll go through the roll call Commissioner Longi?

Commissioner Longi: Aye.

Commissioner Chiumento: Commissioner Valdez?

Commissioner Valdez: Aye.

Commissioner Chiumento: Commissioner Griffing?

Commissioner Griffing: Aye.

Commissioner Chiumento: Commissioner Adams?

Commissioner Adams: Aye.

Commissioner Chiumento: Commissioner Chiumento is an Aye. And last but not least, umm, a motion to authorize, uh, the Chairman to sign a Memorandum of Agreement with the Town regarding our participation in the SWAT operations. (PAUSE) Is there a motion?

Commissioner Longi: Motion to accept

Commissioner Adams: (INAUDIBLE) Somebody make motion? I didn't hear it.

Commissioner Chiumento: Yeah, Commissioner Longi made a motion to accept that. Is that Commissioner Adams seconding? (PAUSE) Commissioner Adams, did you second?

Commissioner Chiumento: Okay, Commissioner Adams seconded. I'll do a roll call. Uh, Commissioner Longi?

Commissioner Longi: Aye.

Commissioner Chiumento: Commissioner Valdez?

Commissioner Valdez: Aye.

Commissioner Chiumento: Commissioner Griffing?

Commissioner Griffing: Aye.

Commissioner Chiumento: Commissioner Adams?

Commissioner Adams: Aye.

Commissioner Chiumento: And Commissioner Chiumento is an Aye. And then last but not least, do I hear a motion to adjourn?

Commissioner Longi: So moved.

Commissioner Chiumento: Commissioner Longi. Is there a second?

Commissioner Valdez: Second. Valdez.

Commissioner Chiumento: Okay. Motion made and seconded. I'll go roll call. Commissioner Longi?

Commissioner Longi: Aye.

Commissioner Chiumento: Commissioner Valdez?

Commissioner Valdez: Aye.

Commissioner Chiumento: Commissioner Griffing?

Commissioner Griffing: Aye.

Commissioner Chiumento: Commissioner Adams?

Commissioner Adams: (INAUDIBLE)

Commissioner Chiumento: Commissioner Chiumento is an Aye. Thank you all very much. Have a safe night and enjoy.

Commissioner Valdez: Good night.

Commissioner Longi: Night, everyone.

Chief Steenbergh: Thank you.

Transcribed and respectfully submitted by,

Renee O'Neill
District Secretary