

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 PM with Commissioner Bob Daston presiding.

ATTENDANCE:

|                      |                                  |
|----------------------|----------------------------------|
| COMMISSIONERS:       | BAKER, DASTON, MELLARDO, WILKINS |
| TAX COLLECTOR:       | TROTTA                           |
| DISTRICT ACCOUNTANT: | MILLER                           |
| OFFICE MANAGER:      | WAKELEY                          |
| FACILITIES MANAGER:  | TARANTINO                        |
| FIRE CHIEFS:         | RAUSO, SAMBROOK, SANFANANDRE     |
| OTHERS:              | SEE ATTACHED LIST                |

All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Daston welcomed everyone to the 2019 Annual Meeting of the Long Hill Fire District. He reminded everyone that this is a public meeting and all votes are public votes.

The minutes of the last Annual Meeting of May 10, 2018 were presented for approval.

Motion made by Doug Bogen to accept the minutes as presented – seconded by Tom Tarantino. No discussion.

Motion passed 17 in favor – 0 opposed – 0 abstained.

**Public Comment:** No public comment

1. **CONSIDER AND ACT ON THE FIRE COMMISSIONER'S REPORT –**

The Commissioner's Report was submitted for acceptance. Commissioner Daston stated this report touches on what the district has accomplished, as well as the Fire Company. We've had a safe and successful year.

Motion made by Greg SanFanAndre to accept the Fire Commissioners report as presented – seconded by Doug Bogen. No discussion

Motion passed 17 in favor – 0 opposed – 0 abstained.

2. **TO ESTABLISH A FIRE TAX MILL RATE ON THE OCTOBER 1, 2018 GRAND LIST –**

Commissioner Wilkins stated this is based on a 98% collection rate.

Motion made by Commissioner Wilkins to accept the fire tax mill rate of .904 – seconded by Doug Bogen.

Discussion – Tom Monks asked what the current mill rate was and was told it is .846.

Motion passed 17 in favor – 0 opposed – 0 abstained.

3. **TO CONSIDER AND ACT ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FIRE COMMISSIONERS FOR A BUDGET EXPENDITURE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2019 –**

A budget expenditure beginning 7/1/2019 was submitted for approval. Commissioner Wilkins stated that this budget includes a bond payment of over \$600,000, which drove up the mill rate. There was no principle payment of \$350,000 in the current budget year.

Motion made by Doug Bogen to accept the budget expenditure presented for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2019 – seconded by Commissioner John Mellardo.

Discussion – Tony D’Aquila asked if this \$350,000 is a recurring payment. It was stated that it will be for the next 20 years. The fire district received a AA rating, the same as the town and also received a good interest rate, which kept the payments at a lower amount.

Motion passed 17 in favor – 0 opposed – 0 abstained.

4. **TO ELECT TWO (2) FIRE COMMISSIONERS FOR A TERM OF THREE (3) YEARS (7/2019–6/2022) –**

Commissioner Daston stated that his term was up and that he would not be running again for another three year term. Motion made by Commissioner Mellardo to open the floor for nominations – seconded by Doug Bogen. Greg SanFanAndre stated that he would like to nominate Tom Monks to fill this commissioner position. Since there were no other nominations off the floor, Commissioner Mellardo made a motion to close nominations – seconded by Commissioner Wilkins. Motion passed 17 in favor – 0 opposed – 0 abstained. Due to the fact that there were no other nominations, Commissioner Daston, as Chairman and in the absence of Commissioner Bakalar as Secretary, cast one ballot to elect Tom Monks as Fire Commissioner for a term of three years.

Commissioner Daston stated that Commissioner Ken Bakalar’s term was up and that he was interested in running again for another three year term. Motion made by Doug Bogen to open the floor for nominations – seconded by Tom Monks. Since there were no other nominations off the floor, Doug Bogen made a motion to close nominations – seconded by Commissioner Wilkins. Motion passed 17 in favor – 0 opposed – 0 abstained. Due to the fact that there were no other nominations, Commissioner Daston, as Chairman and in the absence of Commissioner Bakalar as Secretary, cast one ballot to elect Ken Bakalar as Fire Commissioner for a term of three years.

5. **TO CONSIDER AND ACT ON DEPOSITORIES OF FIRE DISTRICT FUNDS –**

Julie Miller stated that we have accounts at Peoples Bank and Newtown Savings Bank. She recommended that we stay with what we have right now.

Motion by Commissioner Wilkins that we accept the recommendation of the District Accountant to stay with Peoples Bank and Newtown Savings Bank for all district funds, seconded by Doug Bogen.

Discussion – Commissioner Wilkins stated that he would like to recognize the hard work that Julie, Kathy and Sandy did on changing banks. Julie fought to remove fees and has always balanced right down to the penny. We moved our funds from Bank of America to Newtown Savings Bank to save money on the fees that we were being charged.

Motion passed 17 in favor – 0 opposed – 0 abstained.

6. **TO PRESENT THE FIRE CHIEFS ANNUAL REPORT –**

Chief Rauso submitted his annual report for 2018-19. Commissioner Daston gave everyone time to read the reports of all chiefs.

Motion made by Greg SanFanAndre to accept the Fire Chiefs report as presented, seconded by Deanna Bogen. No discussion.

Motion passed 17 in favor – 0 opposed – 0 abstained.

7. **TO CONSIDER, PROCEED, AND ACT ON ANY OTHER FIRE DISTRICT ACTIVITIES –**

A blanket approval of contractual obligations involving expenditures of \$20,000 or less in any one year.

Motion by Greg SanFanAndre to accept the blanket approval for \$20,000 or less – seconded by Doug Bogen. No discussion.

Motion passed 17 in favor – 0 opposed – 0 abstained.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN MEETING AT 7:18 PM MADE BY COMMISSIONER MELLARDO– SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER BAKER. NO DISCUSSION**

Motion passed 17 in favor – 0 opposed – 0 abstained.