

POUND RIDGE FIRE DISTRICT  
MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 12, 2024 REGULAR MEETING

*\*NB – All votes are assumed to be unanimous unless otherwise noted.*

PRESENT: : Chairman Peter Gallagher; Commissioner Frank Tavalacci, Commissioner David Ekholm, Commissioner Edward Trail, Caretaker Sam Dodge, Chief Vincent Zafonte.

ALSO PRESENT: Secretary/Treasurer Justin Friedland,

ABSENT: Vice Chairman Joseph Roemer,

CALL TO ORDER Chairman Gallagher called the regular meeting of the Pound Ridge Fire District to order at 7:05 P.M.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

**Commissioner Ekholm's motion to accept the July minutes was seconded by Commissioner Tavalacci and was unanimously approved.**

APPROVAL OF BILLS

**Commissioner Tavalacci's motion to approve payment of the bills as submitted, was seconded by Commissioner Ekholm and was unanimously approved.**

APPROVAL OF TREASURER'S REPORT:

**Commissioner Ekholm's motion to approve the Treasurer's Report was seconded by Commissioner Trail and was unanimously approved.**

CHIEF'S REPORT: calls in October. (list attached)

MEMBERSHIP Member DomD'Ambrosio resigned effective this date.

CHIEF'S PURCHASES Chief asks for the following:

Licenses for two radios in Chief's trucks-\$2,100.

51 Fire Department License Plates @\$1,200

Label Maker @ \$185

And from the Chief's budget:

Purchase aluminum flatbed trailer from Garrett Biagerelli @ \$3,500

Purchase various brush fire supplies @ \$1,400

**Motion to approve the above items made by Commissioner Ekholm, seconded by Commissioner Trail.**

Chief and Caretaker Dodge looking into purchasing Starlink phone for emergency communication during natural disasters that affect phone and radio service. Cost would be \$1,200 the first year for the phone and service. \$600 per year thereafter for the service.

LONG TERM PLANNING UPDATE: NR

EXPANDED LONG TERM PLANNING AND ADDITION – Conference call held with architect Walter Hauser and Attorney Brad Pinsky.

Contractor Chris Lyons has informed Commissioner Tavalacci that he cannot fulfill the contract due to problems arising from an inability to get the necessary union agreement to the terms of the PLA.

Attorney Pinsky will begin a conversation with the company issuing the performance bond for the contractor as to compensation for non-performance.

General agreement to abandon the PLA, and send the project back out to bid under Wicks law and prevailing wage.

Board agrees to wait to hear results of conversation with performance bond issuers before moving to next step.

In the meantime, call with Moody's rating agency is cancelled, and bond sale is delayed pending resolution of the above issues.

2025 budget will be revised to remove the anticipated bond debt service of \$422,500, taking the budget from \$1,331,557 to \$909,057. This new bottom line still exceeds the tax cap as it is a 4.925% increase from last year, so the tax cap override vote from last month remains in effect. New budget will be sent to town and posted.

WATER SUPPLY: Winterbottom hydrant was in worse shape than first thought. Pipe is steel, it is cracked and partially plugged. Need is to completely replace with PVC. Dredging already done. Full cost, including dredging will be \$56,000.

Two hydrants at the market are next to be done. Cost of approximately \$39,000 for both.

**Motion made by Commissioner Trail to do all three hydrants and use the existing Hydrant Maintenance reserve funds to pay. Seconded by Commissioner Tavalacci.**

INSURANCE: NR

COMPUTER: NR

EXECUTIVE SESSION: To discuss personnel matter . 7:50-8:05p.

TOWN & PLANNING BOARD MEETINGS: NR. Chairman Gallagher to ask town for letter specifying that District will not be charged for water drawn from hydrants to fill fire trucks.

MEDICAL: NR

ADDITIONAL BUSINESS: Andy Fredericks lecture coming on January 25<sup>th</sup>. Caretaker Dodge says the session will cost \$1,440.

PUBLIC COMMENT: NR

**There being no further business to come before the Board, Commissioner Ekholm's motion to adjourn the meeting was seconded by Commissioner Tavalacci and unanimously agreed to by all the attending Commissioners. Accordingly, the meeting adjourned at 8:45 P.M.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Justin Friedland Secretary/Treasurer